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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you support the proposal to create a Marine Monument in the northern islands?

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INSIDE



Symbolic Victory

Hillary Rodham Clinton coasted to a large but largely symbolic victory in working-class West Virginia on Tuesday, handing Barack Obama one of his worst defeats of the campaign yet scarcely slowing his march toward the Democratic presidential nomination.

Nation...Page 15



Quake Epicenter

Soldiers hiking over landslide-blocked roads reached the epicenter of China's devastating earthquake Tuesday, pulling bodies and a few survivors from collapsed buildings.

Asia...Page 16

Vacationing alien workers should first notify Labor

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
REPORTER

Vacationing alien workers, including those who have work permits in their possession, are now required to notify the Department of Labor about their exit.

Labor public education and outreach director Rose Ada-Hocog told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday a foreign national worker who fails to file before departing the CNMI may be precluded from entering the Commonwealth.

Ada-Hocog said under See **VACATIONING** on Page 4

Hollywood Theater to reopen May 23

By **MARK RABAGO**
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Nearly a month after the islands' lone cinema closed, Wallace Theatres Corp. announced yesterday that it will reopen the seven-theater Hollywood Theater-Saipan Megaplex this

coming May 23.

Portland, Oregon-Wallace Theatres said after reviewing the financial viability of the theater and receiving a positive reaction from the public, the theater will resume normal operations late next week, in time for the open-

See **HOLLYWOOD** on Page 4



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

GCG company staff work on cleaning and repainting the façade of the seven-stadium Hollywood Theater-Saipan Megaplex yesterday afternoon. The movie house will resume its operations on May 23 after it closed down on April 18, 2008.



It is a decision that was difficult to make, but one that I had intended to pursue for a couple of years. When I accepted my first appointment in 2000, I did so with the intention of helping to strengthen accountability in our government. But my plans, as much as I enjoyed working at OPA, were not to make public service a permanent career.

—Public Auditor Michael Sablan

Public Auditor resigns

By **AGNES E. DONATO**
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REPORTER

Public Auditor Michael Sablan has resigned and will leave the post in two months.

Sablan, the highest paid government official in the Commonwealth, said he plans to pursue

another job off-island, although he has not decided where. "It has been an honor serving

as CNMI Public Auditor since December 2000. After much

See **PUBLIC** on Page 4



LET'S PLAY BALL

Team Man 'Amko's Christiana Michael 62, tries to hit the ball during their softball game with members of the Legislature yesterday at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan softball field in Susupe. Team Man 'Amko won 6-5. The activity was held in observance of Older Americans Month/Mes Man 'Amko/Maramal Tufey. Inset shows Team Man 'Amko with Team Legislature after the exciting game.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Judge Lizama reportedly retiring to run for delegate

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Juan T. Lizama is considering retirement to pursue his plan to be the first CNMI delegate to the U.S. House of Representa-

tives, according to a source at the local courts.

The reliable source disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that Lizama is planning to retire on July 17, 2008, which is the day of his 10th year anniversary as a judge.



Lizama

another possible candidate, See **JUDGE** on Page 4

The source said the judge will then run as NMI delegate to challenge

Fitia appoints King to BOR. **PAGE 2**

Immigration urged to ready officers for federalization. **PAGE 3**

INTRODUCING

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Local

Fitia appoints King to NMC BOR

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitia has appointed public defender Janet H. King to serve the remainder of former acting chairman of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents Joey P. San Nicolas' term.

Fitia's appointment requires the consent of the Senate. If

confirmed, King will represent the Second Senatorial District and serve the unexpired term of San Nicolas. His term is due to expire on Sept. 23, 2010.

In a letter to Senate President Pete P. Reyes, Fitia stated that he and Lt. Gov. Tim P. Villagomez are confident that King "is highly qualified and will be an asset to the Board of Regents."

As an appointee of the governor, King is immediately required to file a statement of financial interests with the Public Auditor and other prerequisites required by the Senate such as the copy of her resume, SAF, drug test receipt, and drug test result for submission to the Senate.

According to Fitia, if copies of the following documents are

not received by the Senate, the consideration of King's appointment could be jeopardized.

San Nicolas resigned from the Board of Regents effective May 1, 2008, citing health and family matters.

He wrote a letter to Fitia recommending the appointment of King to replace him on the board and serve the remainder of his tenure.

San Nicolas recognized King as a practicing attorney from Tinian "who possesses the education, drive, and commitment to help the board fulfill its constitutional and statutory duties."

King, who is a native of Tinian, has expressed her interest to represent Tinian in the Board of Regents. She also recently passed the CNMI bar. She is a graduate of the University of Nebraska College of Law.

Over 300 attend CNMI JROTC military ball

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**
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REPORTER

Over 300 people attended the CNMI JROTC's fifth multiple school unit military ball, which was held under the single unit headquarters concept for all five high schools in the CNMI.

The military ball, which was held at the Saipan World Resort, was attended by cadets and students from Marianas High School, Saipan Southern High School, Kagman High School, Tinian High School, and Rota High School.

This year's distinguished guests included Rep. David M. Apatang, Mayor Juan B. Tude-la, Board of Education chair Lucia Blanco-Maratita, Education Commissioner David Borja, and Lt. Col. Kevin Welowski, who is a professor of Military Science at the University of Guam SRTOC.

Cadets were dressed in their formal military uniforms as they

listened to the speeches from the event's VIPs.

Wesolowski spoke to the cadets about the importance of setting high goals and pursuing them with determination. He encouraged the cadets to "be all they can be." Borja echoed this message and encouraged the cadets to stay the course.

Lt. Col. Robert Gay, Director of Army Instruction, told the Cadets that the theme they chose for the Ball of "One Country, One Army, One JROTC" was right on the mark.

He pointed out that it was good for the entire CNMI JROTC program that cadets from all five high schools were in attendance and enjoying the camaraderie of their fellow cadets and peers.

Gay also emphasized the importance of being a team and working together to accomplish their goals and objectives as a team.

The night was also filled

with entertainment from local dancers Inatuas and individual performances from the CNMI JROTC high schools.

One of the night's highlights was the presentation of "Shoulder Sashes" to the graduating seniors of each high school by their respective Senior Army Instructors.

The sashes reflected the cadets' school colors and also included their high school name.

The year's graduating class was presented distinctive JROTC Unit patches.

According to Gay, the presentation of the sashes "was especially meaningful to the cadets and the adults alike."

Kagman High School JROTC served as the host to this year's military ball. Recognition also went to Master Sgts. Jim Burke and John Salas and the Kagman cadets for working tirelessly to ensure the event would be a successful one.



RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN

Dandan Elementary School principal Jonas M. Barcinas receives the \$5,000 educational tax credit donated recently by Islands Financial Service, Inc.

Isla Financial donates to public schools

The Isla Financial Service, Inc. donated \$5,000 worth of edu-

cational tax credit to Dandan Elementary School and San Vicente Elementary School.

Each school received \$2,500 to purchase instructional materials and supplies in preparation for the opening of the school year 2008-2009.

DES principal Jonas M. Barcinas said with the economic crisis the CNMI is experiencing today, "such assistance will help us meet the demand and needs of the school. We will be creative and discrete on the priorities that we may need to address at the school."

Both schools have shared their gratitude towards the number of businesses in the community to graciously be helpful in donating their BGRT to the Public School System.

Recently, Sorensen Media donated their educational tax credit to Hopwood Junior High School and has made it a promise to donate future educational tax credits to public schools in the CNMI.

Barcinas said the "Tottot Family" wishes to extend their most sincere appreciation to the Isla Financial staff and its general manager Anne D. Castro for helping DES "at a time like this." (Rianne Pangelinan-Brown)

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Immigration urged to ready officers for federalization

By **AGNES E. DONATO**
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Paul A. Manglona has urged the CNMI Division of Immigration to start preparing local immigration officers to take on jobs under the federalized system.

The Rota senator, in a letter to Immigration Director Melvin Grey, said that with proper training, current immigration officials and employees "may indeed qualify for future federal immigration jobs."

Manglona urged Grey to establish a training program for

the immigration officers. He said an estimate of the training costs will allow the Legislature to budget locally or to request aid from federal agencies for the education of the immigration employees.

"It is my hope that a majority of the federal jobs that will

be created through the federalization of our immigration system may be filled by our local residents. I am optimistic that early planning and training can successfully transition our CNMI immigration officials towards this federal employment."

Effective June 1, 2009, the U.S. government will run immigration in the Northern Marianas. The immigration federalization measure, which President Bush signed into law last week, says local immigration officers will be given preference in the

hiring, but it does not offer guaranteed jobs for them.

The law states, "To the maximum extent practicable and consistent with the satisfactory performance of assigned duties...the Attorney General, Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Secretary of Labor shall recruit and hire personnel from among qualified US citizens and national applicants residing in the Commonwealth to serve as staff in carrying out the operations described in [this act]."

Grey has expressed concern

for the local officers, whom he said are very competent in their jobs. He also said his division had made efforts to get training for the officers, but federal bureaucracy had frustrated such efforts.

He said that the Department of Homeland Security offices in Guam, Hawaii, and San Francisco gave him the runaround before the Washington, D.C. office finally turned him down and referred him to the Interior Department.

The Division of Immigration employs 65 officers.

Laolao Family Fun Day next week

The Laolao Bay Golf Resort recently announced that its 6th Annual Family Fun Day 2008 will be held on May 24, 2008.

According to a statement released by organizing committee chair Tommy McKenzie, Family Fun Day 2008 is Laolao Bay Golf Resort's way of extending its appreciation to the local golfers, their families and the local community for their "year-round patron-

age and support."

This year's event will include on course bike-lane and walk-athon, husband-wife and parent-child best golf tournament, and "Big Truck Day."

As in the past, Laolao Bay Golf Resort is teaming up with the Commonwealth Health Center Volunteers, the Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition, Ayuda Network, and the Department of Land and Natu-

ral Resources to spice up this year's event.

The committee is also working closely with the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and the Department of Public Safety to help give the event a successful turnout.

For more information on the 6th Annual Family Fun Day organized by Laolao Bay Golf Resort, call 236-8888. (*Rianne Pangelinan-Brown*)



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Two more appointed to PUC

The Fitial administration has named two more appointees to the Public Utilities Commission.

Accountant David Burger has been nominated to represent Saipan and former Commonwealth Utilities Commission director Laura Manglona has been named to represent Rota.

Both appointments are subject to confirmation by both the Senate and House of Representatives. If confirmed, Burger and Manglona will join current PUC members Viola Alepuyo, Kyle Calabrese, and Kimberlyn King-Hinds, completing the composition of the commission.

The regulatory body is given by law until the end of 2008 to set new rates for CUC. If PUC fails to do this, power rates will automatically go back to the October 2007 rollback rate of 17 cents.

The creation of the utilities commission has hit numerous obstacles since the PUC Act was enacted in 2006. The administration faced hardship in finding appointees who have the necessary expertise, but none of the familial or professional links that may potentially cause conflict of interest. *(Agnes E. Donato)*

Lawmaker demands info on basis of new CUC rates

A lawmaker says the new power rates are too high, and wants to know how the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation arrived at them.

The new rate schedule, according to Rep. Heinz Hofschneider, "appears to be on the high side, even with fuel [price] increases."

In a letter, he asked CUC executive director Antonio Muna for all of the data used to set the new rates, as well as any communications or reports with the Public Utilities Commission related to the rates. He also asked Muna if any of the PUC members was consulted regarding the rate increase, "and if not, why not?"

He said he expects CUC to respond to his request promptly. "As your decision was not done in a vacuum, I am sure that all this information is at your fingertips," he said.

Power rates doubled after the governor signed into law a bill reversing



Hofschneider

the October 2007 rollback. From paying 17.6 cents per kWh during the past two months, residential customers will now be charged rates ranging from 37.3 cents to 48.4 cents per kWh.

CUC says the high rates result from the skyrocketing price of fuel to run the power plants. *(Agnes E. Donato)*



BIRTHDAY BOY

Shirley's Coffee Shop's Ricky Magdalita will celebrate his birthday today. Greetings from your Shirley's Coffee Shop family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

VACATIONING

From Page 1

Section 5 of the Labor Rules and Regulations pursuant to Public Law 15-108 states that "a foreign national worker who exits during the term of an approved employment contract shall file, with the enforcement division, a notice on the standard form provided by the Department."

The director said the workers can get the notice form by downloading it from Labor's website www.marianaslabor.net.

"They just fill out the notice of exit and turn it in to Jeffrey Camacho of the Labor Enforcement Section," Ada-Hocog said.

Asked when was the implementation of the new policy started, Ada-Hocog only stated "it's ongoing" pursuant to Public Law 15-108 or the new reform labor law.

It is not clear when Labor actually started implementing the new policy as alien workers who went on vacation last March to early April were not required to fill up the exit notice.

It is also not clear what will happen to those who are already exited the CNMI for vacation. Labor is expected to answer some of the workers' concerns today.

HOLLYWOOD

From Page 1

ing of *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*."

"Since we suspended operations to give us time to review our options, we experienced an overwhelming response from locals saying, 'Keep the theater open!' and, in spite of rising costs, especially energy, we're going to give it another shot," said Clyde Cornell, chief operating officer of Hollywood Theaters. "We're excited to bring Hollywood back to Saipan."

After weeks of inactivity, the site was abuzz yesterday afternoon as GCG company staff worked on cleaning and repainting the facade of the Hollywood

Theater in anticipation of next week's reopening.

Hollywood Theater unexpectedly shut down last April 18 with Wallace Theatres citing the island's bad economy and rising operational costs as the reasons for the company's decision to temporarily halting operations.

During its month-long absence, video rentals on Saipan have enjoyed brisk sales with one prominent outlet reporting a 20-percent spike in business since Hollywood Theater closed.

A company led by Los Angeles-based talk show host Steve Mason also showed interest in operating the cinema complex.

Mason, president of Flagship Theatres, said his company entered informal talks with Wallace Theatres to re-open the seven-theater cinema

complex.

Headlining Friday's movie offerings will be *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*. Famed archaeologist/adventurer Dr. Henry "Indiana" Jones (Harrison Ford) is called back into action when he becomes entangled in a Soviet plot to uncover the secret behind mysterious artifacts known as the Crystal Skulls.

Hollywood Theaters said the first 1,000 patrons to the theater on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday will receive an Indiana Jones Top Trumps 6-card booster pack.

Additionally, the opening of Hollywood Theaters will feature *Ironman*, when wealthy industrialist Tony Stark (Robert Downey Jr.) is forced to build an armored suit after a life-threatening incident, he ultimately decides to use

its technology to fight against evil.

Also slated for the theater's reopening, the Wachowski brothers' *Speed Racer*. Fearless driver Speed Racer teams with his one-time rival, Racer X, to win the race that took his brother's life.

From the guys who brought you *40 Year Old Virgin* and *Knocked Up*, *Forgetting Sarah Marshall* will also make its Saipan debut. Devastated Peter takes a Hawaii vacation in order to deal with recent break-up with his TV star girlfriend, Sarah. Little does he know Sarah's traveling to the same resort as her ex and she's bringing along her new boyfriend.

Jet Li and Jackie Chan, meanwhile, star in *The Forbidden Kingdom*. A discovery made by a kung fu obsessed American teen sends him on

an adventure to China, where he joins up with a band of martial arts warriors in order to free the imprisoned Monkey King.

Hollywood Theaters features stadium seating, giant screens and Dolby Digital Sound. Auditoriums feature high-back reclining seats that give each patron an unobstructed view, while cozying-up in "love-seat" style chairs that feature retractable cup-holder armrests.

Hollywood Theater-Saipan Megaplex, located next to Price Costco, opened with much fanfare in Sept. 8, 1999.

During its first week of operation, the venue showed *Deep Blue Sea*, *Haunting*, *Iron Giant*, *Mystery Men*, *Bowfinger*, *American Pie*, *Thomas Crown*, and *Miss Kristina Moran*.

JUDGE

From Page 1

Washington Resident Representative Pete A. Tenorio, and other hopefuls.

But the source said Lizama will not run "for good reason" when former attorney general and now private attorney Robert Torres will file his candidacy.

Asked by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday for comment about retirement, the judge only stated: "It's very, very likely."

With respect to the NMI delegate issue, Lizama neither confirmed nor denied it.

"It's better to be on the side of caution until the time comes," the judge said. He refused to elaborate.

Two years ago, Lizama privately

expressed to *Saipan Tribune* his intention to run as Washington resident representative.

The same source said Lizama believes that a minimum of 10 years as a judge should be a benchmark to any judge or justice to give way to other highly competent and respected lawyers.

Lizama is the first judge to be retained on the bench in the CNMI.

PUBLIC

From Page 1

thought and consideration, however, I have decided to tender my resignation to be effective at the close of business on July 22, 2008," he told Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and legislative leaders in a letter yesterday.

Sablan has served as the CNMI public auditor for over seven years. He was appointed to his first term as public auditor in 2000 by then Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio. In December 2006, Fitial reappointed him for another six-year term.

Under his leadership, the Office of the Public Auditor issued about

100 audit reports, conducted Ethics and Accountability presentations for thousands of government employees, and made numerous recommendations to reform regulations to improve accountability over public resources including travel, procurement, and personnel.

Sablan is also credited for reducing OPA personnel and transitioning OPA from a mostly nonresident staff to almost 100-percent local staff.

"We respect Mike's decision to pursue other career opportunities. We wish him the best of luck. He has strong support from across political spectrum, and is well liked and respected in the community. We are honored to have worked with him," said press secretary

Charles P. Reyes Jr.

The governor's spokesperson said a short list of candidates for the position will be prepared. The administration, he added, is looking for someone who is independent, objective, and acceptable to both houses of the Legislature, which must confirm any OPA appointment.

The law allows a maximum salary of \$100,000 a year for the public auditor.

Rep. Stanley T. Torres, who is probably Sablan's most vocal critic, was quiet about the resignation. "He probably found a better paying job. I wish him the best in his new venture," said Torres, who has had a testy relationship with the agency since OPA "raided" his office in 2003.

In an interview, Sablan said his decision to leave had nothing to do with any rift with any government official or agency.

"It is a decision that was difficult to make, but one that I had intended to pursue for a couple of years. When I accepted my first appointment in 2000, I did so with the intention of helping to strengthen accountability in our government. But my plans, as much as I enjoyed working at OPA, were not to make public service a permanent career," he said.

He said he timed his departure in consideration of two events. One is the completion of OPA's external quality control review, where the agency expects to receive once again the high-

est possible rating from its peers. The other is a conference of the Association of Pacific Islands Public Auditors on Saipan in July. Sablan is serving his second term as president of the regional organization.

Sablan is a certified public accountant with a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of California, Los Angeles. Prior to his first appointment, he also served as special advisor for finance and budget to Governor Tenorio, vice president/chief financial officer for Joeten Enterprises, assistant controller for DFS Saipan Limited, and in several other accounting positions.

He has also held various key positions in regional professional organizations.

2 sites at Tinian water system have bacteria

Two sites at the Tinian water system were tested to have the presence of coliform bacteria, according to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. yesterday.

CUC in its report disclosed that the presence of coliform bacteria was detected at water samples taken from two sites in Marpo area.

Stressing that this is not an emergency, CUC said coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves.

These bacteria are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially harmful bacteria may be present.

CUC said usually the presence of coliform is a sign that there could be a problem with the water system's treatment or distribution system or pipelines.

"Whenever we detect coliform bacteria in any sample, we do follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or E.Coli, are present. We did not find these bacteria in our subsequent testing. Further testing shows that this problem has been resolved," CUC said in its report.

The utility agency collected 11 water samples on Tinian throughout April 2008 to test for

presence of coliform bacteria.

Of the 11 water sites, two samples showed the presence of total coliform bacteria.

CUC explained that the standard is that no more than one sample per month may do so.

At the Marpo area, tests indicate that there was proper chlorine level in the water system. However, the chlorine treatment did not have enough mixing or contact time in the distribution system, and the waterline was flushed to remove any stagnant water.

CUC said the affected people of Tinian should observe the following:

- They do not need to boil water or take other corrective actions. However, if they have

specific health concerns, they should consult their doctor.

- People with severely com-

promised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people

should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Workshop for Rota ranchers, farmers

The Cooperative Research, Education, and Extension Service, under NMC's Community Programs & Services Unit, will be conducting a workshop on neem tree production for alternative pesticides, nematode control and fertilizer workshop/field day.

The workshop is in cooperation with WSARE Rota Farmer Rancher 2007-2008 Granted Project On Organic Farming. All farmers, growers and anyone interested may attend this workshop/field day on May 19,

8:30am-4:30pm, at the NMC Rota Campus, Room B-2 and Frank Atalig's Research Farm in Ginalangan.

Presenters and topics include:
■ Organic Farming
 - Gadi V.P. Reddy PhD, entomologist/chemical ecologist. Western Pacific Tropical Research Center University of Guam, UOG Station.

■ Insect Pests in the CNMI
 - Dr. Joaquin Tenorio, Entomologist, NMC-CREES

■ Grant Project Methodology/Testimony

- Frank Atalig, WSARE Grant Producer, Sinapalo, Rota

■ WSARE Grants
 - Allan Sabaldica DVM, WSARE CNMI coordinator, NMC-CREES

■ Field Trip
 - Research Site, Ginalangan Area

For more details and registration, contact NMC-CREES Rota Campus at 532-9511/13 or 9477 or Alejandro E. Badilles at 287-0554. Limited seats. Lunch and refreshment will be served. *(NMC-CREES)*

Teenager nabbed for allegedly stealing items from cop's house

Police arrested a teenager who allegedly stole and pawned some entertainment items belonging to a police officer and his family.

Jake A. Palacios, 19, was arrested for theft.

A \$10,000 cash bail was initially imposed for his temporary liberty. He was set to appear yesterday afternoon in the Superior Court for a bail hearing.

Detective Vincent K. Basa stated in his report that last Saturday at 12noon, Sgt. Hillary Tagabuel called the police that he was at the Villaroyal Pawnshop in Dandan where he saw some items stolen from his house.

Basa said while at the shop, Tagabuel identified an XBOX360 game console with accessories, and three XBOX games (Halo 3, Gears of War, Ultimate Alliance) as the items stolen from his house in Kagman III earlier that day.

When the shop's attendant

turned on the game console, Tagabuel recognized the music playing as being the same music his son had downloaded.

The attendant then provided a copy of receipt attached with a photo identification card of Palacios as the person pawning the items.

Also indicated on the receipt is another name written indicating a second person who pawned the items. It was not clear whether the second person was also arrested.

According to the receipt, the two individuals received \$160 for the items.

Tagabuel's wife told police that on Saturday evening she spoke to Palacios about the missing items.

Palacios allegedly apologized and promised to pay her back soon.

Investigation showed that Palacios and the second person are nephews of Tagabuel's wife. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

PUBLIC NOTICE

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Saipan, Rota arrivals up, Tinian's down

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Arrivals to Saipan and Rota increased in April 2008, while less tourists visited Tinian during the same period, according to the latest report from the Marianas Visitors Authority.

Saipan welcomed a total of 31,174 tourists last month, a 21-percent increase from the 25,856 that visited the CNMI capital in April 2007.

MVA's No. 1 source market, Japan, witnessed an 8-percent rise in arrivals to 15,281 from 14,195. South Korea continued to post double-digit growth, posting a 41-percent increase in arrivals to 8,740 from 6,196.

Russians also flocked to Saipan last month, growing by 42 percent to 403 from 283 a year ago. The "others" market

showed a 1 percent rise, while China (-20 percent), Guam (-1 percent), United States (-6 percent), the Philippines (-69 percent), and Taiwan (-95 percent) all performed poorly in April 2008.

Rota, for its part, saw a 32-percent spike in visitor arrivals in April 2008 to 626 compared to the 427 that came to the southernmost part of the CNMI chain in April 2007.

The Japanese again led the charge with an 85-percent surge to 458 from 247 a year ago. Guam arrivals were the only other market that grew, increasing to 142 from 137 in April 2007, or a 4-percent jump.

China (-67 percent), U.S. (-14 percent), and "others" (-83 percent) all posted negative growth.

Tinian saw visitor arrivals stumbled 15 percent as only 3,006 came to the CNMI's trea-

sure island in April 2008, compared to 3,539 in April 2007.

Visitors from China (-30 percent) and the U.S. (-23 percent) posted the biggest decrease, while South Korea was the lone bright spot with its 57-percent increase in tourist arrivals.

CNMI-wide, arrivals soared 20.98 percent to 31,800 tourists in April 2008 compared to the 26,286 that came and visited the Commonwealth in April 2007.

Memorial Day 2008 starts next week

The Office of the Governor, Office of Military/Veterans Affairs and the Memorial Day Committee are reminding the general public to come, celebrate, and honor the brave men and women who served, with unwavering dedication and purpose, paid the ultimate sacrifice to keep the world safe, and secure the freedom we enjoy today.

Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez will be signing the proclamation for Memorial Week on

Wednesday, May 21, at 10am at the Governor's Conference Room.

Memorial Day ceremony will be at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi on Monday, May 26, 2008, at 9am.

The Pacific Winds Concert Band will begin with the pre-ceremonial music at 8:30am. The keynote speaker will be Rear Admiral William French, Commander Naval Force Marianas. **(PR)**

double-digit growth in its tourism industry and the spike is the highest in recent years.

Free NMC info session tonight

Northern Marianas College will be hosting a free information session tonight, May 15, for those interested in furthering their education and advancing their professional careers.

The information session will be held at the Seaside Hall of the Saipan Grand Hotel and will run from 6pm to 8pm.

Representatives from different degree and certificate programs, as well as counseling, financial aid, and admissions staff will be on hand to answer questions.

Current students will also be speaking about their experiences at NMC and will be also be fielding questions.

Individuals who attend this free information session will qualify to have their application fee and their placement test fees

waived for the 2008 Summer or Fall semesters.

NMC offers numerous degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in elementary education, associate degrees in business, liberal arts, nursing, natural resource management, criminal justice, hospitality management, and more.

Moreover, it offers many certificate programs in many different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

The free information session is open to everyone, including graduating seniors and their parents, government and private sector employees, international students, and members of the general public who are interested in learning more about the programs at NMC. **(NMC)**



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION



INVITATION TO BID NMHC ITB-08-010

This ad is paid for with HUD funds.

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, hereby give notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids for the **LANDSCAPING OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS JAPAN CULTURAL CENTER** in Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested individuals or firms may pick up a copy of the Project Package beginning Wednesday, May 14, 2008, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI and austerity holidays. A non-refundable payment of Seventy Five dollars (\$75.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

Bidders are advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act and the labor standard provisions for wage rate determination of the Commonwealth. All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate of \$3.55 per hour which took effect on July 25, 2007 as established by U.S. law. Bidders are further advised to participate the increase of \$.50 per hour that is scheduled to take effect on May 26, 2008.

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at **10:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 22, 2008**, at the Northern Marianas Japan Cultural Center in Garapan, Saipan next to the Garapan Central Park, and all interested bidders will be given the opportunity to walk through the proposed project site, familiarize themselves with the required work and ask questions regarding the project. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

Sealed Bids must be marked **NMHC ITB-08-010**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director, Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, May 29, 2008**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, May 29, 2008 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside of the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U. S. Postal Service or the official government postal service no later than May 29, 2008 AND must be received by Procurement and Supply no later than June 9, 2008. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, June 10, 2008. However, if no Notices of Intent to Bid are received from bidders outside of the CNMI, the bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m., local time, May 29, 2008.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00), a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be in the form of a Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Landscaping of the NM Japan Cultural Center". Surety companies must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference" is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment Bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. Pursuant to Governor's Directive 251 dated March 15, 2006, bidders are required to include a Clearance from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner with respect to the financial bonding capability of the bidders' chosen Surety.

Performance time for completion of this project is forty-five (45) calendar days. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One Hundred Dollars (US\$100.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) provided to the Commonwealth. This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires recipients of HUD funds and the contractors to help insure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents and the businesses that serve them "to the maximum extent feasible."

NMHC hereby notifies bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

All documents received shall be the sole property of the NMHC with the exception of the Bid Bond, Certified Check, or Cashier's Check, which will be returned to the proposers after the acceptance and award of contract to the successful contractor.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest. All proposals will become the property of the Government.

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
NMHC Board Chairman & Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION



INVITATION TO BID NMHC ITB-08-009

This ad is paid for with HUD funds.

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, hereby give notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids for the **CONSTRUCTION OF THE TINIAN AMPHITHEATER PARKING LOT** in San Jose, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested individuals or firms may pick up a copy of the Project Package beginning Thursday, May 15, 2008, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI and austerity holidays. A non-refundable payment of Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

Bidders are advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act and the labor standard provisions for wage rate determination of the Commonwealth. All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate of \$3.55 per hour which took effect on July 25, 2007 as established by U.S. law. Bidders are further advised to participate the increase of \$.50 per hour that is scheduled to take effect on May 26, 2008.

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at **10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 21, 2008**, at the on-going construction site of the Tinian Amphitheater in San Jose, Tinian, and all interested bidders will be given the opportunity to walk through the proposed project site, familiarize themselves with the required work and ask questions regarding the project. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

Sealed Bids must be marked **NMHC ITB-08-009**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director, Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, May 30, 2008**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, May 30, 2008 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside of the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U. S. Postal Service or the official government postal service no later than May 30, 2008 AND must be received by Procurement and Supply no later than June 10, 2008. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, June 11, 2008. However, if no Notices of Intent to Bid are received from bidders outside of the CNMI, the bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m., local time, May 30, 2008.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00), a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be in the form of a Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Construction of the Tinian Amphitheater Parking Lot Project". Surety companies must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference" is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment Bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. Pursuant to Governor's Directive 251 dated March 15, 2006, bidders are required to include a Clearance from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner with respect to the financial bonding capability of the bidders' chosen Surety.

Performance time for completion of this project is sixty (60) calendar days. Liquidated damages will be assessed at Five Hundred Dollars (US\$500.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) provided to the Commonwealth. This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires recipients of HUD funds and the contractors to help insure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents and the businesses that serve them "to the maximum extent feasible."

NMHC hereby notifies bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

All documents received shall be the sole property of the NMHC with the exception of the Bid Bond, Certified Check, or Cashier's Check, which will be returned to the proposers after the acceptance and award of contract to the successful contractor.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest. All proposals will become the property of the Government.

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
NMHC Board Chairman & Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

MIFICPA beautifies CNMI

The Marianas Institute of Filipino Accountants and CPAs showed their concern for the island last May 3 after taking part in the Division of Environmental Quality's Adopt A Beach cleanup program.

The organization cleaned the shore from the 13 Fishermen Monument up to Quartermaster along Beach Road.

About 30 accountants and associates volunteered in cleaning, headed by MIFICPA president Irene Santiago.

The volunteers started picking up trash at 5pm and finished around sunset. About 10 trash bags full of garbage were collected.

"It's just right for us to do our part in making our community nice and clean. Let's challenge ourselves that it is our responsibility, don't make some excuses besides it is our home."

The organization's public re-

lational officer Benjie Ganapin added, "Though it's our burden, we should do this not because of being obligated but out of service and love. Actually volunteers to this kind of project benefit also, we had fun, joy in serving and of course the calories you lose by walking. It's a good exercise."

The participants enjoyed good refreshments and the camaraderie. It was a good opportunity for the accountants to meet new friends and be away from business office environment, added Ganapin.

MIFICPA plans to do at least one cleanup every two months. As part of the organization's theme this year, the cleanup is a way to show the group's unity.

It is a good outlet for the accountants to exercise and at the same time help out, according to Santiago.

MIFICPA is reminding ev-

eryone to please be accountable for your own trash, help beautify CNMI. For more information, contact Irene Santiago at 287-7997 or Jho Doreza at 322-0997. (mificpa)

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Some 30 MIFICPA members and volunteers filled 10 trash bags during the group's May 3 cleanup from the 13 Fisherman Monument to Quartermaster Road.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MIFICA adviser Melvin Malvar leads the cleanup while Larry Pangilinan and Maricar Simeon, left, follow his example.

Pacific Eagle, ISA CNMI to join cleanup on Banzai Cliff

A local company will join ISA CNMI in a cleaning up Banzai Cliff and the surrounding area in Marpi this coming Sunday morning.

Pacific Eagle Enterprises, Inc., along with ISA CNMI, will clean the monument in collaboration with Nenpou Shinkyu Kongouji beginning 10 am on May 18.

Company vice president Aya-ko Matsumoto said more than 200 volunteers from the temple the will join the three groups in the activity.

"I always try to spread a beauty virus to Japanese tourist and the community," she said.

The cleanup and the arrival of temple members are in conjunction with the unveiling of the new monument built at Banzai Cliff.

The memorial monument was built and donated by the Head Temple of Nenpou Shinkyu Kongouji to honor the hundreds of Japanese civilians who jumped to their deaths screaming a final salute to their emperor in the last days of the battle on Saipan during World War II.

The ceremony will take place on Monday, May 19, from 1:30pm to 2:15pm.

The unveiling ceremony will be attended by Lt. Gov. Tim P. Villagomez, Department of Public Lands Secretary John Del Rosario, Nenpou Shinkyu president Ryoyu Okeya, and other government officials and representatives from Japan and the CNMI. (PR)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Board of Parole

P.O. BOX 502641, SAIPAN, MP 96950-2641
TEL NOS.: (670) 664-3300, 3304 • FAX: (670) 664-3310
e-mail: govhop@vzwpacific.net



PUBLIC NOTICE

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Board of Parole Office, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992". Notice is hereby given that a Parole Hearing is scheduled for May 21, 2008 (Wednesday) beginning at 8:30 a.m., and, if need be, to continue on May 22, 2008 (Thursday) at 9:00 a.m. at the Vicente Taman Seman Building, Department of Corrections, Briefing/Training Room, Susupe, Saipan. The following items are included in the agenda:

- | | | |
|---|----------------|--------------------------|
| I. Preliminary Matters | | |
| 1. Call to Order | | |
| 2. Roll Call | | |
| 3. Presence of Quorum | | |
| II. Consent Items | | |
| 1. Adoption of Agenda | | |
| 2. Adoption of Parole & Revocation Hearing Minutes - March 13, 2008 | | |
| III. Parole Application | BOP No. | Criminal Case No. |
| 1. Francisco M. Calvo | 08-005 | 07-0070D |
| 2. Jesse Raymond C. Taitano | 08-006 | 06-248D |
| 3. Corazon R. Atalig | 08-007 | 06-00981E |
| 4. Jose O. Rabauliman | 08-008 | 98-0083 |
| IV. Re-Application | BOP No. | Criminal Case No. |
| 1. Joaquin S. Peredo | 08-RA-004 | 04-181C |
| VI. Adjournment | | |

If you have any question, please call the Parole Office at telephone number 664-3300 or 3302.

/s/ Ramon B. Camacho
Chairman, Board of Parole

May 14, 2008
Date

REWARD OFFERED
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Saturday May 24th:

- Registrations closes @ 7:00pm
- Tournament starts @ 8:00pm
- One re-buy available for the first three blind levels; player must bust
- Play will cease at approximately 1am and will continue the following day

Sunday May 25th:

- Celebrity Charity Challenge @ 12:00pm
- Tournament resumes @ 2:00pm and continues until Last Man Standing
- Awarding Ceremony
- Cash games all weekend!

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Economic stimulus payment FAQs

Following are answers to some of the most commonly asked questions regarding the economic stimulus payments. The *Saipan Tribune* will be publishing these FAQs as a series.

Q. What do I need to do to get an economic stimulus payment?

A: All you need to do is file a federal income tax return for 2007. Even if you are not otherwise required to file a tax return, you must file a 2007 return in order to receive a payment this year. Although some filers, such as high-income filers, will not qualify for a stimulus payment, most will.

In most cases, you will fill out your return, reporting all your income, deductions and credits as you normally would. But even if you are not required to file, you must file a 2007 return to get a stimulus payment this year. Low-income workers, Social Security beneficiaries, certain railroad retirees and those who receive certain benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs who normally don't file may receive a stimulus payment if they do. The IRS will provide special filing instructions for those who do not otherwise have a filing requirement. The instructions will explain which lines on the tax return the filers need to complete.

You do not need to calculate the amount of the stimulus payment. If you want to estimate the amount of your payment, use the Economic Stimulus Payment Calculator.

If you qualify, the IRS will automatically figure it and send it to you. The IRS will also send you a notice showing the amount of your payment. You do not need to call the IRS or fill out any other special forms.

Q. How do I find out if I am eligible?

A: The easiest way to find out is to use the Economic Stimulus Payment Calculator. Most people with a 2007 net income tax liability will qualify. This includes most people who get tax refunds. Net income tax liability is the amount shown on Form 1040, Line 57 plus the amount on Line 52. For 1040A filers, it is the amount on Line 35 plus the amount on Line 32. For Form 1040EZ filers, it is the amount on Line 10.

Families with children under 17 generally will qualify for an additional payment. Some people with no tax liability also will qualify. This includes Social Security and Railroad Retirement beneficiaries, recipients of certain veterans' payments, low-income workers with earned income and/or benefits of at least \$3,000 and individuals who have combined income of at least \$3,000 from any combination of these sources.

Some higher-income taxpayers will not receive a stimulus payment or will receive a reduced payment.

Q: I normally don't need to file a tax return. How do I know if I'm one of those people who may be eligible to receive an economic stimulus payment?

A: This group includes some recipients of Social Security, Railroad Retirement or veterans' benefits as well as taxpayers who do not make enough money to normally have to file a 2007 tax return. For example, this can include low-income workers, those who receive Social Security benefits or veterans' disability compensation, pension or survivors' benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs in 2007. These people will be eligible to receive a payment of \$300 (\$600 on a joint return) if they had at least \$3,000 of qualifying income.

Qualifying income includes Social Security benefits, certain Railroad Retirement benefits, certain veterans' benefits and earned income, such as income from wages, salaries, tips and self-employment. For people filing joint tax returns, only a total of \$3,000 of qualifying income from both spouses is required to be eligible for a payment.

Q: I normally don't have to file a tax return but have enough in qualifying income to receive a stimulus payment. How do I find out more about how to file a tax return?

A: More information is available in Fact Sheet 2008-16. If you qualify, all you need to do is fill out Form 1040A in a few places. A sample version of Form 1040A illustrates which lines to fill out.

Q: If I'm filing a tax return this year just to get a stimulus payment, by when do I have to file?

A: The IRS encourages everyone to file by the normal April 15 tax deadline: The sooner you file the sooner you can receive your stimulus payment. But if you have obtained a valid six-month extension to file or if you are filing to establish your eligibility for the stimulus payment, filing by Oct. 15 means the IRS can process your return and issue a stimulus payment before the end of the year. [New 3/5/08]

Q: I want to estimate my payment. Please explain how it is figured.

A: Essentially, there are two parts to the stimulus payment: a basic amount based on tax liability, filing status or other qualifying factors if there is no tax liability and an additional amount based on whether a qualifying child is reported on the return.

Basic Amount of Payment: Taxpayers who had a net income tax liability will receive a payment, unless they can be claimed as dependents on someone else's return, are high-income individuals or do not have a valid Social Security Number. The payment is equal to the taxpayer's net income tax liability, but no more than \$600 for a single person or \$1,200 for a married couple filing a joint return. The minimum payment is \$300 for a single person or \$600 for a married couple filing jointly.

People with no net income tax liability will usually get a minimum payment of \$300 for a single person or \$600 for a married couple filing jointly, as long as they have qualifying income of at least \$3,000. To figure your qualifying income, add together the following amounts:

- Wages that are reported on Form W-2.
- Net self-employment income.
- Social Security benefits reported in box 5 of the 2007 Form 1099-SSA, which would have been received in January 2008. People who do not have a Form 1099-SSA may estimate their annual Social Security benefit by taking their monthly benefit and multiplying it by the number of months during the year they received the benefit.
- Certain Railroad Retirement benefits reported in box 5 of the 2007 Form 1099-RRB, which recipients would have received in January 2008.
- Veterans' benefits received in 2007, including veterans' disability compensation and pension or survivors' benefits received from the Department of Veterans Affairs. People who weren't required to file a tax return can estimate their annual veterans' benefits by taking their monthly benefit and multiplying it by the number of months during the year they received the benefit.
- Nontaxable combat pay if the taxpayer

elects to include it as earned income.

Extra Money for Qualifying Child: Eligible taxpayers who qualify for a payment may receive an additional \$300 for each qualifying child. To qualify a child must be under age 17.

Phase Out: The stimulus payment — both the basic component and the additional funds for qualifying children — begins to phase out for individuals with adjusted gross incomes (AGI) over \$75,000 and married couples who file a joint return with AGI over \$150,000. The combined payment is reduced by 5 percent of the income above the AGI thresholds.

Q: I am filling out the special Form 1040A to report my qualifying income. Which Social Security benefits should I report on Line 14a?

A: The economic stimulus law refers to the same definition of Social Security and Railroad Retirement benefits used in IRS Publication 915. Thus, Social Security monthly retirement, survivor and disability benefits, or the Tier 1 Railroad Retirement benefits equivalent to those SS benefits, all count. This is the amount reported to you by the Social Security Administration as "Net Benefits for 2007" in Box 5 of Form SSA-1099 or by the Railroad Retirement Board in Box 5 of Form RRB-1099. Report this amount on Line 14a, Form 1040A. Determine the amount of your Veterans' benefits by multiplying your monthly benefit by the number of months during 2007 that you received the benefit. Supplemental security income (SSI) payments are not considered Social Security benefits and thus cannot be included. Because SSI is not taxable, it is not reported to you on Form SSA-1099. [New 2/27/2008]

Q: My child just turned 17 in December 2007. Do I still get the extra child payment?

A: Not in this case. Eligible taxpayers who qualify for a payment may receive an additional \$300 for each qualifying child. But to qualify, a child must be under age 17 as of Dec. 31, 2007. In other words, if a child was 16 or younger at the end of 2007 and meets the other eligibility requirements, then the child will qualify for the \$300 stimulus payment.

Q: I know some people won't get a stimulus payment. How do I know if I'm one of them?

A: You won't get a stimulus payment in 2008, if any of the following apply to you:

- You don't file a 2007 tax return.
- Your net income tax liability is zero and your qualifying income is less than \$3,000. To determine your qualifying income, add together your wages, net self-employment income, nontaxable combat pay, Social Security benefits, certain Railroad Retirement benefits and certain veterans' payments.
- You can be claimed as a dependent on someone else's return (whether or not you actually are claimed as a dependent on someone else's return). For example, this would include a child or student who can be claimed on a parent's return. [Updated 4/15/08]
- You do not have a valid Social Security Number.
- You are a nonresident alien.
- You file Form 1040NR or Form 1040NR-EZ, Form 1040PR or Form 1040SS for 2007.

Source: Internal Revenue Service (www.irs.gov)



No abortion at CHC

Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez has said that no abortion will be performed at the Commonwealth Health Center unless the CNMI court says otherwise. Despite a legal opinion which says that any woman may obtain an abortion in the Northern Marianas, Mr. Villagomez maintained that the lone hospital on the island will strictly adhere to a provision of the Commonwealth Constitution that prohibits such practice.

Cholera warning raised in FSM

Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez has advised travelers going to Federated States of Micronesia, especially Pohnpei, to take the necessary precautionary measures with the outbreak of cholera in the neighboring island. Mr. Villagomez urged travelers coming from Pohnpei and other FSM jurisdictions who are experiencing symptoms such as profuse watery diarrhea or leg cramps for the last five days to immediately visit the Commonwealth Health Center for medical attention.

During calamities CDA gives break in agri loan payments

In the absence of crop and marine insurance on the island, the Commonwealth Development Authority has put in place a program designed to help local farmers and fishers cope with financial losses caused by natural calamities. Under the CDA program, local farmers and fishermen who have outstanding loans with the government-controlled lending agency are given a break in payment until the next harvest season.

MAY 15, 2001

Businessmen want minimum wage raised to \$4.50 an hour

Saipan Chamber of Commerce President Anthony Pellegrino yesterday raised the possibility of scrapping the nonresident workers' fringe benefit and replacing it with a higher minimum wage of at least \$4.50 per hour. In an interview yesterday, the chamber president urged the government to explore the possibility of raising the minimum wage, while eliminating other benefits like free housing, meals and plane fare extended to guest workers.

Over 1,000 qualified voters remain unregistered - BOE

The Board of Election yesterday complained of difficulties in reaching more than 1,000 unregistered voters in the Northern Marianas, as the November general elections draws near. Executive Director Greg Sablan disclosed that despite appeals made by the election board urging unregistered voters to go out and be listed for the upcoming polls, only a handful had so far surfaced to register.

Higher franchise fees for telecom providers urged

The governor's nominees to the proposed telecommunications commission are urging lawmakers to address several loopholes in the newly-enacted law that regulates the local telecom industry. In particular, they want to see the franchise fee provision of the new law increased from the current 0.5 percent to 2.5 percent. They said the money identified to finance the commission's operation is not enough to cover its needs.

MAY 15, 2002

Philippine Airlines coming to Saipan

The Philippines' flag carrier will provide direct service between Manila and Saipan beginning September 2002, in time with the airline company's scheduled completion of its research and documentation of the route. This was agreed upon between CNMI officials and representatives of the Philippine Airlines during a meeting that was held in Manila Monday afternoon.

EPA warns against environmental crimes

To show that it means business in enforcing laws against environmental crimes, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency yesterday said violators face criminal prosecution, following the first ever visit to the CNMI of the agent-in-charge of its Criminal Enforcement Agency for the Pacific region. Agent-in-charge Scott West came to Saipan Saturday and left yesterday morning. According to the EPA, West's presence was to serve as a deterrent to those who intend to commit environmental crimes.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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EDITORIAL

Wounds we don't see

If there is an upside to modern warfare, it is the advance in battlefield medicine. Soldiers with wounds that were typically fatal during the Vietnam War now survive. An extraordinary 90 percent of U.S. soldiers who were wounded in Iraq have survived, compared with just 76 percent of those wounded in Vietnam, and this is a triumph.

But because of the nature of the fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan—frequent exposure to roadside explosives and other blasts that aren't always fatal to soldiers who wear high-tech body armor and receive high-quality emergency care—the survivors are far more likely to suffer brain injuries. Some of these are less obvious than shell shock. Cognitive problems can be subtle and long lasting, and symptoms, including forgetfulness, difficulty in concentrating or headaches, can be mistaken for or coexist with post-traumatic stress and depression.

When these veterans come home, many find that high-quality mental health and neurological treatment is scarce. Because cognitive and psychological wounds leave no visible scars, many find that compassion can be even scarcer. Meanwhile, the numbers of those with physical and mental damage continue to rise. Although the death toll in Iraq had been falling since the troop surge last summer, in March the number of those killed in action rose to 36, up from 25 in February. The number of wounded soared from 214 to 323, reflecting a sharp increase in fighting.

A comprehensive new Rand Corp. study highlights the hidden costs of America's involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan and documents the extent of these "invisible wounds of war." A survey of veterans found 14 percent suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and 14 percent reporting major depression within the last 30 days, and a stunning 19 percent reporting a likely traumatic brain injury during their deployment. That would suggest that as many as 320,000 of the 1.64 million soldiers deployed may have suffered a traumatic brain injury—yet 57 percent of those surveyed had never been evaluated. The costs of treating brain injuries in 2007 ranged from \$26,000 for mild cases to \$409,000 for severe ones. The survey estimated that costs for treating post-traumatic stress disorder and depression in the first two years after deployment are as high as \$6 billion. Pain, heartache and blighted young lives, of course, are incalculable.

Brain injury research is still in its infancy, and more funding for basic neurological research is essential. Scientifically, more is known about how to treat stress and depression, but that knowledge too often isn't translated into high-quality care for our veterans. We can and must learn to do a better job of healing the mind and the brain—and of helping and honoring those who cannot now be healed.

(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times



Mismanagement

No, this isn't another article about CUC, local politics, or any local organization. With all the serious matters confronting us in the CNMI, we decided to take a break by sharing humorous examples at other places and companies. By realizing that we have not cornered the market on poor policies and practices, it might—in some distorted sense—make us feel that our reality is relatively sane.

Some of these quotes come from a "Dilbert Quotes" contest, where people submitted actual quotes of their managers. In case you're not aware, Dilbert is a comic strip that uses office situations to extract humorous situations. If you feel these quotes are all-to-typical of your work environment, we offer our condolences.

If you are challenged by the problems that beset your organization, you might take a page from a manager at Lykes Lines Shipping who was trying to get staff to brainstorm with him by asking: "What I need is an exact list of specific unknown problems we might encounter."

Microsoft, is the behemoth computer company that started with the modest mission of a computer on every desktop (preferably with the Microsoft logo attached). To give you an insight into the genius that lurks within the walls of Redmond, Washington corporation, this was a winning quote attributed to Fred Dales: "As of tomorrow, employees will only be able to access the building using individual security cards. Pictures will be taken next Wednesday, and employees will receive their cards in two weeks."

In many companies, the Internet has become a necessary tool, as well as a time waster for people who spend an inordinate amount of time surfing the web or emailing lame jokes to co-workers. An account manager at Electric Boat Company made this insightful comment that you may want to use within your own organization: "E-mail is not to be used to pass on information or data. It should be used only for company business."

Managing projects has become a science that allows companies to get much more accomplished. This quote from an advertising and marketing manager at United Parcel Service offers keen insight into the nuances of project management: "This project is so important we can't let things that are more important interfere with it."

You've probably heard the quote: There's never enough time to do it right, but always enough time to do it over. Well, a plant manager at Delco Corporation has tried to avoid that situation by coming up with this brilliant advice: "Doing it right is no excuse for not meeting the schedule."

By RIK AND JANEL VILLEGAS

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.



For those rare situations when an employee performs spectacularly, there is often an inversely spectacular manager who feels challenged by the subordinate's accomplishments. This must have been the case for a research and development supervisor at 3M Corporation who offered these words of wisdom to an underling: "No one will believe you solved this problem in one day! We've been working on it for months. Now go act busy for a few weeks and I'll let you know when it's time to tell them."

Teamwork is hailed by many managers as the way to involve people and get the best performance from them. You might have heard the saying that there is no "I" in "teamwork; however, a marketing executive at Citrix Corporation has made the rare discovery of an "I" in teamwork, with this quote: "Teamwork is a lot of people doing what I say."

One major sore spot in companies that are mismanaged is their lack of communication with staff. Therefore, you would expect a telecommunication's switching supervisor at Sprint Long Lines Division, to have a grip on the importance of communication in the workplace. Such is not the case, as evidenced by this quote: "We know that communication is a problem, but the company is not going to discuss it with the employees."

Some managers believe that communication means that when they say "jump", you respond with "how high, sir." This seems to be the case with a new business manager at Hallmark Greeting Cards, when he asked an underling to submit a status report to him concerning a project. When the subordinated asked if the report could be given tomorrow, the manager replied, "If I wanted it tomorrow, I would have waited until tomorrow to ask for it!"

If you have had similar experiences with your own Mr. or Ms. Manager, then you may have grimaced at some of the examples because they were too close to home. However, if your boss has not made similar comments, you might find comfort that you're not suffering as much as other people who labor under mismanagement.

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Letters to the Editor

The times they are a-changin’

Gregorio Cruz, you’re quite a busy guy writing incessant will-o-the-wisp commentaries as Charles P. Reyes said, with “no credibility and no consistent principles or convictions.”

Maybe you can clarify some nagging questions about your philippic philosophy. But first, you deserve to be complimented on the escalating absurdity and the elevated quality of your ranting.

Your harangues directed this week at the honorable Representatives, Tina M. Sablan and Heinz S. Hofschneider, and last week to the earnest and thoughtful Mr. Alfredo Antolin, Jr. were remarkable.

Your rhetoric has become uncommonly brazen! You have surpassed yourself in ludicrousness. Do you really do this by yourself?

Whatever the case, your consternation must be terribly discomfoting. We know, too, how painfully preoccupied you are these days about the *fait accompli* of federalization and the growing sentiment favoring improved residency status for resident foreign workers in the Commonwealth.

Many of us share an interest in these subjects but with a somewhat different understanding of the issues.

You’ve also been fretting quite a bit lately about your so-called detractors. But not to worry, Greg. You’re part of a valuable dialogue. This is a democratic society and [Mr. Cruz] can say whatever he wants to say, as the honorable Rep. Hofschneider recently said. We understand that you don’t need detractors or ghostwriters for that matter.

You do a fine job of revealing who you are on your own with increasingly malignant denunciation of everything that displeases you as if your personal preferences and prejudices were universal truths.

You give clear-thinking, morally responsible people many things to write about. You must continue to say whatever (you) want to say. The *fagaga* speaks for itself. Speaking entirely for myself, since no ones appointed me

universal spokesman of anything, I’ll admit that I don’t know everything.

For example, I dont know how you ascended to the pulpit as omniscient arbiter of all things Tao Tao Tano. Can you explain how you know what everyone among the tao tao tano thinks? I know some local citizens who question your sanity. I wouldn’t go quite that far.

But, if, as your writing implies, you’re the authentic voice of all indigenous people in the Marianas, I imagine it would be just as implausibly absurd to declare myself Emperor of Managaha.

I could stand on the beach and

tirely unearned, as a legal proclamation or an act of legislation?

Wasn’t your citizenship simply awarded to you by virtue of your family being in the Marianas for the prescribed period? It’s a relevant question, Greg, in light of your interminable braying about citizenship rights.

You might recall something that other members of this community have understood for a long time. The United States freed the Marianas from the slave master Japanese Empire initiating a chain of circumstances that opened the door for you and all NMD people to eventually become U.S. citizens.

And what were your qualifications

point, can you explain how it might be morally justifiable now for a political system administered largely by freed indigenous citizens to operate with legalistic mechanisms and attitudes intended to disenfranchise, subjugate and perpetuate a subservient underclass of other longstanding members of the community?

Oppression now, in any guise, cannot be any more justifiable than it was under the Japanese, can it?

My hope is that there’s a lesson here that you can appreciate, although, in light of your social, political, and historical myopia, I am doubtful of its power to inform you.

the privilege of citizenship that was previously granted to you.

It is that simple, your futile outdated territorial defensiveness and xenophobia notwithstanding. While it’s understandable and appropriate for everyone to hold on to an identity, indigenous identification became politically subordinate to an American identity with the advent of the American era in the Marianas.

National identity is primary. Like it or not, the legal and political reality of belonging to a nation means that regional, cultural, ethnic, indigenous, and parochial identities fall into second place behind the national identity. The people of the islands are not citizens of the Commonwealth. They are residents of the Commonwealth and citizens of the United States of America.

That is the advantage, the commitment and the obligation that was accepted with the formation of a political union with the U.S. The honorable and wise representative, Tina M. Sablan, invariably defends your right to speak your mind freely. And I would not disagree.

So if you deign to speak your mind in response to this account with another of your sophomoric tirades, have at it. But do consider this:

*Don’t criticize what you can’t understand
Your old road is rapidly agin’.
Please get out of the new one
If you can’t lend your hand
For the times they are a-changin’.*

I believe Bob Dylan said that. And meanwhile, Gregorio S. Cruz, Jr., be assured that morally responsible people of good conscience, sincere people from every ethnicity, including many Tao Tao Tano, are also watching YOU like a HAWK... and I said that.

K. F. H. O’Hartnett
Saipan

National identity is primary. Like it or not, the legal and political reality of belonging to a nation means that regional, cultural, ethnic, indigenous, and parochial identities fall into second place behind the national identity. The people of the islands are not citizens of the Commonwealth. They are residents of the Commonwealth and citizens of the United States of America.

spend my days shouting useless and pointless assertions into the inevitable winds of change whimpering about how my homeland was eroding out from under me.

Or I could come to terms with the forces of reality and accept that tide and time were reshaping the land into something perhaps more magnificent than it was before. Know what I mean?

There’s actually another significant question that inquiring minds in the Commonwealth would like you to answer if you can. It concerns how you came by your U.S. citizenship.

Did you “stand in line and go through the process just like everyone else” as you demand that our invited long-term resident workers do? Or was American citizenship conferred on you by blanket decree one day, en-

for that privilege? You qualified by your defined ancestry and by having lived in the Marianas for the required time. In all honesty, Greg, you didn’t “stand in line and go through the process just like everyone else,” did you?

Your citizenship was a given to you by a decision of the United States of America, wasn’t it? Isn’t that the story? Whatever the case, you’re a lucky boy to be an American citizen, aren’t you? Or would you prefer to publicly and officially renounce your U.S. citizenship?

Just curious. Looking a little farther back, it seems reasonable to assume that you might agree that before the American liberation of the Marianas, the oppression of indigenous people by the Japanese administration was an atrocity. If you acknowledge that

In a nutshell, the long-term legally working resident Filipinos, Chinese, Thais, Bangladeshis, Koreans. and legally present other nationalities who have assembled the infrastructure, toiled in the service industries, cheerfully welcomed and catered to the islands tourists and who have performed the other great labors that built a measure of prosperity for the Commonwealth, have the moral and legal right to ask for... and to demand, if need be... improved immigration status in this American territory.

Our productive long-term legal resident guests who have worked with us, for us and among us for many years have now earned the same opportunity within the unique social, political, and economic environment that is the CNMI to enjoy

Governance and commonsense

The general public, teachers, the Board and the Governor need to come to the same realization that our education system as a whole IS NOT being “governed” properly, which is the reason our children have struggled for the past three decades to be academically equivalent to their counterparts on the mainland. The first step to solving the mystery of “catching up” to the national average is to address the very system governing the day-to-day operation and the plans for growth. There is NO state level governance system for the entire CNMI because NMC and PSS are totally separate and NO one is governing over the private schools.

The lack of governance is why I have been pushing for a Secretary of Education position over the past three years to be created if we truly want to build an education industry and achieve a university level of education in the CNMI, which should be our goal for education and that’s common sense. We need a conduit that will connect the efforts of the Executive, the Legislature, the pri-

vate and public schools in addressing the needs and plans for education in the CNMI and the Secretary of Education post is a proven methodology. During the formative years of the CNMI there was no need for a leader over the entire education system, however, the CNMI has clearly grown and become of age that we must extend the capacity and quality of our education system and that’s common knowledge.

A Secretary of Education or state comptroller (compliance controller) is certainly a position that history has taught us we MUST eventually create sooner or later given the “*La Fiesta Af-fair*” and other education blunders. But for the purposes of this exercise in common sense is to address the governance of our Public School System. I’m sure everyone with common sense will agree that “every part of our government must be governed, with checks and balances being ultimately held accountable to the PEOPLE. The first question that must be asked is “**where are the checks and balances on the Board of Education?**”

The Board has done a diligent job of placing a check on staff, teachers and even the COE but where is the check on the Board’s decisions?

I’m sure some Board member will say how all the policies are sent to the AG and the public is given the opportunity to comment before they become law and that all general Board meetings offer an opportunity for public input. All of this is great for “input” but what about the final “outcome” that proves to be unsatisfactory to the stakeholders in the PSS? There is virtually nothing we (the people) can do short of a formal petition to remove the Board, which is highly unlikely. The general public CANNOT place a daily check on the Board and can hold the Board accountable every four years if they are dissatisfied with all the Board members. The Constitution has also protected the Board from the governor and the Legislature by making PSS autonomous.

So, if education is this “sacred government entity” and if the people within the system are truly a family and if this

family is suppose to function as a team, then why can’t teachers & staff pace a daily check on the Board to place the long over due and badly needed check on the leaders of our education system? Teamwork is SUSPOSE to be a “reciprocal phenomena” but messages are only traveling ONE WAY from the top down when it comes to our Public School System that is still operating under the 19th century model of leadership. The different branches of our government automatically check each other but there is nothing and no one placing a check on the autonomous entities of the Board of Education and Board of Regents. This is not to say PSS and NMC have been doing horrible but to say the CNMI CAN DO MUCH MUCH BETTER because I witnessed it live and in living color. But its not so much about the money, as some may think, as it is about going beyond the preferences of a particular agency and creating better policies and policies that create genuine partnerships to achieve a common goal for the entire CNMI—

we call it GOVERNING!






But governing is useless without a proper governing system. Teachers and the general public have been yelling at the Board for years and we can’t even get regular Board meetings when the community can attend. I’m sure people can also remember the many rifts between the Government and Education officials and they still loom over us today. The Board and governor are yelling at each other, the Legislature yells at the Board and the Board yells back, and the people are just yelling at everyone and NO ONE ends up getting what they wanted— duh! These conditions exist and will continue to exist until we (the CNMI) establish a genuine governance system over education. The institution of Commissioners to oversea the introduction of education facilities falls short of the need and is a bit “over kill” politically but it is a step in the right direction.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲86 ▼77
Palau	Cloudy	▲85 ▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼76
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼72
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼74
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲83 ▼73

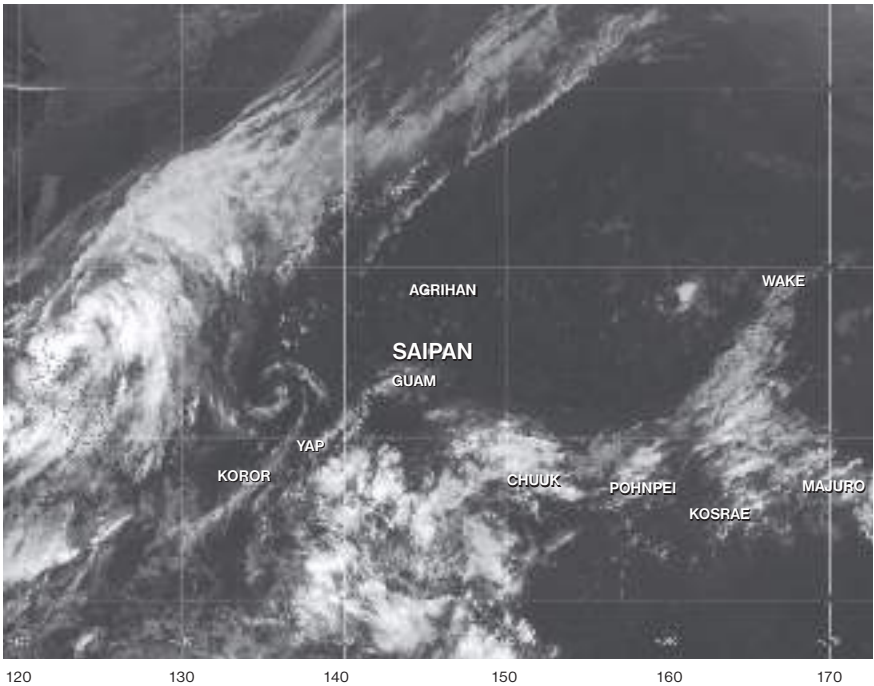
Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲62 ▼48
Beijing	Cloudy	▲75 ▼57
Hong Kong	Partly Sunny	▲83 ▼73
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲82 ▼71
London	Rain	▲68 ▼50
Los Angeles	Hot	▲90 ▼62
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼77
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲67 ▼54
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲85 ▼73
New York	Cloudy	▲69 ▼54
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲66 ▼55
Paris	Rain	▲72 ▼56
Pusan	Sunny	▲72 ▼55
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲73 ▼57
Salem	Sunny	▲86 ▼53
San Francisco	Sunny	▲98 ▼56
Seoul	Cloudy	▲65 ▼48
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲70 ▼54
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲76 ▼56

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
4:23AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
11:11AM Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
5:06PM Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
10:44PM Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Convergent winds in the northwest corner of the discussion area are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 500 miles northwest of a line from 25N144E to 18N130E. Low-level winds converging into a monsoon trough that extends from EQ145E to 10N130E is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from the equator to 9N between 138E to 150E. This area includes portions of Yap and Chuuk states. Trade wind convergence is producing scattered showers within 150 miles of a line from 9N150E to 9N160E to 11N164E to beyond 5N180. This area of showers includes Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kwajalein and Majuro.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:48AM	6:39PM
Friday	5:48AM	6:39PM
Saturday	5:48AM	6:39PM
Sunday	5:48AM	6:39PM
Monday	5:47AM	6:40PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:45PM	2:20AM
Friday	3:32PM	2:54AM
Saturday	4:20PM	3:29AM
Sunday	5:09PM	4:06AM
Monday	6:00PM	4:45AM

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS**
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMU'T SARI**
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE**
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN**
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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 - Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
Saipan-Rota CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7	Rota-Saipan CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6
Saipan-Guam CO9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily CO9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6 CO9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	Guam-Saipan CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota CO9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7 CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita NW 078 8:40am 2:00pm Daily via Nagoya NW 075 4:45pm 7:25pm Daily	Narita-Saipan NW 076 10:15am 2:50pm Daily NW 077 6:25pm 1:25am+1 Daily via Nagoya
Saipan-Osaka NW 083 4:20pm 7:10pm Daily	Osaka-Saipan NW 084 10:30am 3:05pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya NW 078 8:40am 11:25am Daily	Nagoya-Saipan NW 077 9:00pm 1:25am+1 Daily
Saipan-Manila CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6 CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3	Manila-Saipan CO 890 9:15am 2:55pm 6 CO 890 11:45am 5:35pm 3
Saipan-Seoul OZ 604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:50am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7	Seoul-Saipan OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7 OZ 603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan OZ 608 3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7	Busan-Saipan OZ 607 9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7
Guam-Manila CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6 CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7 CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7	Manila-Guam CO 894 11:20am 4:55pm 2,7 CO 894 7:45pm 1:20am+1 6 CO 892 9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror CO 934 10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily PR 110 10:15pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6	Guanzhou-Saipan CZ 3007 8:00pm 4:00am+1 1,5
Guam-Hongkong CO 909 6:40pm 9:25pm 1,5	Hongkong-Guam CO 910 10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5
Guam-Rota CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6	Rota-Guam CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily				
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Letters to the Editor

No need to federalize protection of Northern Islands

As both Council members and indigenous islanders from the Mariana archipelago, we felt we should weigh in to correct some of the nonsense peddled in the local media about the Western Pacific Council or WESPAC by the Pew Charitable Trusts Environment Group representatives. Further, we support whatever the decision the governor and Legislature choose to make regarding the Pew monument. We also note that the Covenant between the United States and the

satellite-based vessel monitoring systems to police these area closures. WESPAC was the first to develop an ecosystem-based coral reef fishery management plan and the first to transform its other fishery plans into place-based ecosystem plans, which are designed to provide local communities with a voice in the fishery management process.

Some of the recent negative correspondence about WESPAC has questioned the science behind the longline swordfish

around Guam that extends at a minimum 50 miles to the east and west and nearly 100 miles to the South to protect troll fisheries. A complementary longline area closure of 30 miles around the CNMI was also recently voted on by WESPAC. The smaller closure is designed to allocate near shore resources to trollers, without stifling development of the new longline fishery based out of Saipan and Rota. WESPAC has also recently voted to prohibit purse seine fishing by any nation, including the U.S., in the U.S. EEZ around the entire Mariana archipelago. Similarly, WESPAC has designated a 50 nautical mile closure around Guam which is closed to bottomfish vessels larger than

Some of the recent negative correspondence about WESPAC has questioned the science behind the longline swordfish fishery management in Hawaii using circle hooks and fish bait. WESPAC has achieved what was at one time considered unrealistic, a successful environmentally responsible way of shallow set longline fishing, which has resulted in a 90-percent reduction in sea turtle interactions and reduced seabird takes from thousands to a few dozen.

Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas includes the Northern Islands as sanctuaries. This should be respected and indicate that there is no need for the federal government to federalize the protection of these islands.

WESPAC has managed fisheries in this region in a sustainable and responsible manner for the past thirty years. It was the first Council to ban trawl gear and the use of drift gillnets within the U.S. EEZ, long before they became fashionable targets for environmental groups like the Pew. The Council was also among the first Councils to develop large scale area closures to allocate fishery resources or to provide protection for protected and sensitive species. WESPAC was the first in the U.S., possibly the world, to use

fishery management in Hawaii using circle hooks and fish bait. WESPAC has achieved what was at one time considered unrealistic, a successful environmentally responsible way of shallow set longline fishing, which has resulted in a 90-percent reduction in sea turtle interactions and reduced seabird takes from thousands to a few dozen. So successful has this been that to date in 2008 no loggerhead turtles have been taken by the fishery, despite increasing loggerhead nesting abundance in Japan for the past decade. Little wonder then that the rest of the Pacific looks to the Hawaii fishery and to WESPAC on how to implement this type of successful longline fishery management

In the Mariana archipelago, as long ago as 1992, WESPAC implemented an area closure

50 ft, to protect smaller scale bottomfish fishers. A similar measure for the CNMI southern islands is in review with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

We hope that this limited account of WESPAC's commitment to science-based responsible fisheries management will balance the deliberate attempts of the Pew Group and their cohorts to smear WESPAC's reputation. Folks wanting a more balanced perspective on Council activities and programs should browse the Council's web site at www.wpcouncil.org.

Ben Sablan
Cultural practitioner

Manny Duenas
President, Guam Fishermen's Cooperative

Thank you to Public Works

Over the past week, the Museum has been working on the removal of dead trees, scrap lumber, and other debris around the facility. If you've passed by, you've seen the very large amassed piles.

The museum had no equipment capable of removing the material, and the DPW was incredibly responsive. Having no front-end loader available on the morning they scheduled to assist, the DPW staff manually loaded this debris until the loader was available in the afternoon. You would have to have seen the amount and size of the debris to un-

derstand how significant this work was. We want to thank the Department of Public Works (DPW) for assisting us with the removal of the material.

Our sincerest thanks to DPW Secretary Diego B. Songsong, and to the entire DPW crew, Dennis Henry Davis, Tony Somorang, Ben Itibus, Albert Remeked, Jun Litulimar and Ray Camacho. We apologize if we've missed anyone.

Robert H. Hunter
Via e-mail



PTI SUMMER WORK PROGRAM

Learn about the telecommunications industry and get paid!

PTI has summer jobs available for high school and college students!

Students must

- be at least 16 years of age;
- submit a copy of their most current school transcripts with an overall GPA of at least 3.3 or 88% (Transcripts must be submitted in a seal envelope by the educational institution);
- provide a recommendation, preferably from a prior instructor, advisor, principal, or dean;
- be currently enrolled in high school or college or show proof of enrollment for Fall 2008;
- be U.S. Citizens or legally allowed to work in the CNMI.

Some positions may require a valid CNMI driver's license.

Interested candidates must complete a PTI application and submit it, along with the other required documents, to the PTI Office of Human Resource Management located at the PTI Susupe Headquarters by Friday, May 16, 2008, 5:00 p.m. Late applications will not be accepted. For questions, please call 234-6600.

PTI is an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Employer



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



Request for Proposal RFP 08-016

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for Janitorial Services for the PSS Head Start Program. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 08-016" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than June 6, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP 08-016, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and one (1) copy). Any proposal after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl Dela Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: delacruz@pss.cnmi.mp.

Contractors are required to submit with their proposal, a copy of their valid CNMI Business License.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Carl F. Dela Cruz
Acting P & S Officer



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



INVITATION FOR BIDS COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION CUC-IFB08-003

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, is soliciting sealed bids for the **REHABILITATION OF THE EXISTING SLOW SAND FILTERS PROJECT** in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Sealed bids shall be identified on outside of the envelope by Invitation for Bids No. CUC-IFB08-003. Bids in six sets (including original) will be accepted at the Procurement and Supply Office, CUC, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan until 2:00 P.M., on, May 23, 2008, at which time and place will be publicly opened and read aloud.

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury.

The bidder is required to submit with his proposal a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval from the USEPA.

The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds from a U.S. Treasury listed company. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage. The contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

The project consists, in general, of the rehabilitation of the existing slow sand filters, related plumbing, installation of qualitative measurement devices such as Turbidity Meters, Residual Chlorine Meter, related small pumps, electrical controls, and a new control room to house the metering devices adjacent to the Saipan International Airport, Saipan CNMI.

A non-refundable payment of \$300.00 is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after April 25, 2008 at the Water Division Office, CUC, Saipan. A pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at 10:00 A.M., on May 9, 2008, at the CUC Conference Room, Saipan. A project site visit is scheduled following the pre-bid meeting.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government.

All inquiries should be directed to **Manuel B. Sablan, Procurement & Supply Manager at telephone number (670) 235-7025 thru 7032 Ext. 111/134** or Larry Manacop Water Division Engineer at extension 155.

ANTHONY C. GUERRERO
Executive Director

Business

Iran report pushes oil to new record

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil prices shot to a new record near \$127 a barrel Tuesday on concerns that Iran may consider cutting crude oil production. Gas prices,

meanwhile, rose to a new record over \$3.73 a gallon Tuesday, and their advance shows little sign of slowing with Memorial Day weekend, the traditional start of

the summer driving season, just 10 days away.

Light, sweet crude for June delivery rose as high as a record \$126.98 a barrel in midday trad-

ing on the New York Mercantile Exchange Tuesday before retreating to settle up \$1.57 at \$125.80.

Jim Ritterbusch, president of energy consultancy Ritterbusch and Associates in Galena, Ill., said traders reacted to news reports that Iran's government is considering cutting crude oil production. James Cordier, president of Tampa, Fla., trading firms Liberty Trading Group and OptionSellers.com, said the news quickly made its way around trading floors.

In later news reports, Iranian officials denied that production cuts were imminent, but said a reduction has been discussed. Cordier doubts Iran will actually cut oil production. The nation's economy is in bad shape, Cordier said: "They need all the

petrodollars they can get."

At the pump, meanwhile, the national average price of a gallon of regular gas rose 1.4 cents overnight to a record \$3.732, according to a survey of stations by AAA and the Oil Price Information Service. Prices have now risen to the level at which the Energy Department forecasts they'll peak in June, on a monthly average basis; that means prices may still go higher, but their average will peak at around \$3.73.

Many analysts have predicted prices will surge much higher, and may breach the psychologically important \$4 level on a national basis within the next couple of months. Prices are already that high in many parts of the country.

Bernanke: Financial turmoil in markets easing

WASHINGTON (AP)—Turmoil in financial markets has eased somewhat, but the situation is still "far from normal," Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said Tuesday.

The central bank has taken a number of unconventional steps—especially since March, when the credit crisis intensified—to help squeezed banks and big investment firms overcome problems and try to get credit flowing

more freely again.

Those efforts appear to be paying off and "have contributed to some improvement in financing markets," the Fed chief said in prepared remarks delivered via satellite to a financial markets conference sponsored by the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta in Sea Island, Ga.

Bernanke noted some improvements in the markets for certain mortgage-backed secu-

rities, such as those backed by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, as well as some fixed-rate mortgages and corporate debt.

Moreover, the Fed's extraordinary decision in March to let investment firms go to the Fed for emergency loans "seems to have bolstered confidence," Bernanke said.

"These are welcome signs, of course, but at this stage conditions in financial markets are still far from normal," he said.

HP takes aim on IBM with \$13.2B acquisition of EDS

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Riding a hot streak that has doubled its stock price in the past three years, Hewlett-Packard Co. is rolling the dice on a \$13.2 billion acquisition of technology services provider Electronic Data Systems Corp.

The all-cash deal announced Tuesday represents HP's biggest gamble under the leadership of Mark Hurd, who was hired as chief executive in March 2005 to turn around the Palo Alto-based maker of personal computers and printers.

As Hurd relentlessly cut costs while demanding better execution from the company's remaining workers, HP recovered from a nagging financial hangover that was exacerbated by the biggest acquisition in its 69-year history—the \$19 billion purchase of Compaq Computer Corp., completed in 2002 over strident shareholder objections.

Now HP will try to show it learned from its mistakes by making the second largest deal in its history pay off faster.



An exterior view of Hewlett-Packard Co. in Palo Alto, Calif., is seen on March 8, 2008.

Wal-Mart and TJX report solid 1st-quarter profit gains

NEW YORK (AP)—Solid first-quarter profits from discounters Wal-Mart and TJX show that more Americans are hunting for bargains as they struggle to cover their monthly credit card payments, put food on the table and gas in the family car.

Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the world's largest retailer, posted a 6.9 percent increase in first-quarter profits, helped by improved customer service, better inventory control and strong international sales.

The results beat Wall Street's projections by a penny, but the company issued a cautious outlook for the current quarter and warned that the economy would be a "critical factor" in 2008.

TJX Cos., which operates

stores under the T.J. Maxx, Marshalls, HomeGoods names,



In this April 29, 2008 file photo, the outside of a new Wal-Mart supercenter is seen in Maumelle, Ark.

said its first-quarter profits rose almost 20 percent, meeting analysts' projections. But lower investment income and costs from European expansion left TJX's profit margin slightly below the company's expectations.

Wal-Mart shares fell \$1.37, or about 2.4 percent, to \$56.65. TJX shares slipped \$1.49, or about 4.6 percent, to \$30.65.

The pair of earnings reports was released as The Commerce Department announced that retail sales dipped 0.2 percent last month. Commerce also said sales at department stores were down 0.1 percent, indicating that tough economic times may be pushing people to seek out bargains at giant discount stores.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Reports: Icahn considering attempt to oust Yahoo board

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Billionaire investor Carl Icahn is reportedly loading up on Yahoo Inc.'s stock in preparation for a possible attempt to shove aside the Internet icon's board and bring the company's disillusioned suitor, Microsoft Corp., back to the bargaining table. As he mulls whether to lead a rebellion, Icahn has accumulated about 50 million Yahoo shares, a stake of roughly 3.6 percent in the Sunnyvale-based company, both CNBC and The Wall Street Journal reported Tuesday. Both media outlets cited unnamed people familiar with the matter. Icahn hadn't returned messages seeking comment as of late Tuesday. He faces a Thursday deadline to submit an alternate slate of directors to oppose Yahoo's board at the company's July 3 annual meeting.

IAC, Liberty resolve spinoff legal skirmish

NEW YORK (AP)—Media moguls Barry Diller and John Malone have settled their differences over the breakup of Diller's IAC/InterActiveCorp, paving the way for the Internet conglomerate to spin off four of its units. Late Tuesday, IAC and its major shareholder, Malone's Liberty Media Corp., said they resolved a months-long legal skirmish. "Now it's really over and that's great for both of us," IAC Chief Executive and Chairman Barry Diller said in a statement. Liberty Chairman Malone said in the same statement that he is pleased the company could resolve the issues with IAC. Liberty is dropping an appeal it filed on May 7 disputing a March ruling by a Delaware judge who sided with Diller on the breakup plans.

Corporate Express rebuffs sweetened Staples bid

BOSTON (AP)—Hours after saying it was open to holding talks, Corporate Express NV said Tuesday a sweetened \$2.47 billion hostile takeover bid from its larger office products rival Staples Inc. is still too low. Despite a 10 percent hike above the initial buyout proposal rejected in February, the latest bid "still significantly undervalues the business of Corporate Express," the Netherlands-based firm said after its supervisory and executive boards met Tuesday. "At this price level, the offer completely ignores the ongoing operating value of the company," Corporate Express said in a letter signed by its board chairman and chief executive to Staples' CEO. "Furthermore, it ignores our strategic plan, which provides a robust position to outperform our markets."

Median home prices drop in many cities

WASHINGTON (AP)—Median home prices fell in two-thirds of the cities surveyed during the first three months of this year while sales declined in 46 states compared to a year ago, according to the latest report highlighting the depth of the nation's housing woes. The National Association of Realtors said Tuesday that median prices for existing single-family homes dropped in 100 of 149 metropolitan areas in the January-March period, while 48 metropolitan areas saw price increases and one reported no change. The 67 percent of cities reporting price declines was the largest percentage of cities reporting price drops in the history of the survey, which goes back to 1979. In the fourth quarter, prices had fallen in 36 percent of the cities surveyed.

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA 5,932.200 Up 49,000 (+0.83%)	HONG KONG 25,147.55 Down 405.22 (-1.59%)	JAKARTA 2,436.085 Up 17.185 (+0.71%)
TOKYO 13,890.30 Down 63.43 (-0.45%)	K. LUMPUR 1,286.54 Down 6.55 (-0.51%)	MANILA 2,858.16 Up 8.87 (+0.31%)
SINGAPORE 3,187.44 Down 15.98 (-0.50%)	SEOUL 1,828.07 Down 14.73 (-0.80%)	BANGKOK 841.50 Up 2.22 (+0.26%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
12,832.18
-44.13

NASDAQ
2,495.12
+6.63

S&P
1,403.04
-0.54

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.0637
British Pound	0.5139
Canadian Dollar	1.0043
Chinese Renmbi	6.9973
Euro	0.6469
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7984
Indian Rupee	42.272
Indonesian Rupiah	9285.5
Japanese Yen	104.72
Malaysian Ringgit	3.2505
New Zealand Dollar	1.3103
Philippine Peso	42.791
Singapore Dollar	1.3768
South Korean Won	1049.3
Swiss Franc	1.0538
Taiwan Dollar	30.954
Thailand Baht	32.455

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Nation

Clinton wins W.Va., says race not over

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP)—Hillary Rodham Clinton coasted to a large but largely symbolic victory in working-class West Virginia on Tuesday, handing Barack Obama one of his worst defeats of the campaign yet scarcely slowing his march toward the Democratic presidential nomination.

“I am more determined than ever to carry on this campaign until everyone has had a chance to make their voices heard,” Clinton told supporters as the scope of her triumph became clear. “This race isn’t over yet. Neither of us has the total delegates it takes to win.”

With votes from 19 percent of West Virginia’s precincts counted, she was winning 63 percent of the

vote, to 30 percent for Obama.

Obama looked ahead to the Oregon primary later in the month and to the general election campaign against Republican John McCain, but the defeat underscored his weakness among blue collar voters who will be pivotal in the fall.

“This is our chance to build a new majority of Democrats and independents and Republicans who know that four more years of George Bush just won’t do,” Obama said in Missouri, which looms as a battleground state in November.



Clinton

“This is our moment to turn the page on the divisions and distractions that pass for politics in Washington,” added the man seeking to become the first black presidential nominee of a major party.

Interviews with West Virginians leaving their polling places suggested Clinton’s victory could be as overwhelming as any she has gained to date, delivered by an overwhelmingly white electorate comprised of the kinds of voters who favored her in past primaries. Nearly a quarter were 60 or older, and a similar number

Bush calls new attack on US his worst worry

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Bush said Tuesday he was disappointed in “flawed intelligence” before the Iraq war and was concerned that if a Democrat wins the presidency in November and withdrew troops prematurely it could “eventually lead to another attack on the United States.”

In an interview with Politico magazine and the Internet portal Yahoo, Bush also said he gave

up golf in 2003 out of respect for U.S. soldiers killed in the war, which has now lasted more than five years.

“I didn’t want some mom whose son may have recently died to see the commander in chief playing golf,” he said. “I feel I owe it to the families to be in solidarity as best as I can with them. And I think playing golf during a war just sends the

wrong signal.”

Bush said he made his decision after the August 2003 bombing of the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad.

A question submitted from the online audience asked Bush whether he felt he had been misled about Iraq as he made the decision to go to war.

“Misled” is a strong word,” he said. “Not only our intel-

Immigration raid in Iowa largest ever in US

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—A federal immigration raid at a kosher meatpacking plant in northeast Iowa was the largest such operation in U.S. history, with nearly 400 people arrested, federal officials said Tuesday.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials said at least 390 people were arrested on immigration charges as part of a raid Monday morning at Agriprocessors Inc. in Postville.

The plant had about 900 workers before the raid.

Most of the 314 men and 76 women arrested are from Guatemala and Mexico, but some were from Ukraine and Israel.

“Based on the number of ... arrests, this is the largest single site operation of its kind ever in the United States,” said ICE spokesman Tim Counts.

The raid followed a months-long investigation into Agriprocessors, the largest kosher

slaughterhouse in the world.

ICE officials would not comment on whether company officials could face criminal charges. Telephone messages left with Agriprocessors on Tuesday were not returned.

Of those initially arrested, officials said 56 were released on humanitarian grounds, typically because their arrest would leave a child with no custodian. A handful were released because of medical conditions.

ACROSS THE NATION

Anonymous rape tests are going nationwide

ELKTON, Md. (AP)—Starting next year across the country, rape victims too afraid or too ashamed to go to police can undergo an emergency-room forensic rape exam, and the evidence gathered will be kept on file in a sealed envelope in case they decide to press charges. The new federal requirement that states pay for “Jane Doe rape kits” is aimed at removing one of the biggest obstacles to prosecuting rape cases: Some women are so traumatized they don’t come forward until it is too late to collect hair, semen or other samples. “Sometimes the issue of actually having to make a report to police can be a barrier to victims, and this will allow that barrier to cease, to allow the victim to think about it before deciding whether to talk to police,” said Carey Goryl, executive director of the International Association of Forensic Nurses.

Fla. wildfires destroy 40 homes; arsonists sought

PALM BAY, Fla. (AP)—Investigators searched Tuesday for one or more arsonists behind a string of stubborn wildfires that have destroyed at least 40 homes on Florida’s Atlantic coast. Firefighters in Brevard County were trying for the third day to contain fires that have scorched an estimated 10,000 acres, or more than 15 square miles, in and around the neigh-

boring towns of Palm Bay and Malabar. Though the high winds fueling the flames Monday had slowed significantly, officials worried about them spreading quickly in the dry conditions. “We desperately need rain,” said Palm Bay Fire Marshal Mike Couture. “We don’t have any, and we’re not projected to get any anytime soon.”

Military cracks down on scrap-metal scavengers

TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. (AP)—Hundreds of Marines were conducting a combat training mission in the Mojave Desert when an air patrol spotted something kicking up dust: A civilian pickup truck speeding across the barren landscape. Behind the wheel was a suspected scrap metal thief who had been combing the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center for spent brass shell casings. His intrusion onto the base was the 12th time in six months that scavengers had inadvertently halted combat exercises. Bombing ranges have become prime hunting grounds for so-called “scrappers,” who are motivated by soaring commodity prices to take greater risks in their quest for brass, copper and aluminum. The scavenging causes headaches for the military, which cannot patrol every inch of the remote bases where spent ammunition, shrapnel and unexploded ordnance are easy to find.

had no education beyond high school. More than half were in families with incomes of \$50,000 or less, and the former first lady was winning a whopping 69 percent of their votes.

Clinton won at least 15 of the 28 delegates at stake in West Virginia, with 13 more to be allocated.

That left Obama with 1,875.5 delegates, to 1,712 for Clinton, out of 2,025 needed to clinch the nomination at the party convention in Denver this summer.

Even so, Clinton’s aides contended that her strength with blue-collar voters—already demonstrated in primaries in Ohio, Pennsylvania and Indiana—makes her the more electable candidate in the fall.

ligence community, but intelligence communities all across the world shared the same assessment. And so I was disappointed to see how flawed our intelligence was.”

“Do I think somebody lied to me? No, I don’t. I think it was just, you know, they analyzed the situation and came up with the wrong conclusion,” he added.

He acknowledged concerns about leaving the unfinished Iraq war to a Democratic successor. Both Barack Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton have said they will bring troops home if elected.

Bush said his “doomsday scenario of course is that extremists throughout the Middle East would be emboldened, which would eventually lead to another attack on the United States.”

Televangelist John Hagee apologizes to Catholics

WASHINGTON (AP)—John Hagee, an influential Texas televangelist who endorsed John McCain, apologized to Catholics Tuesday for his stinging criticism of the Roman Catholic Church and for having “emphasized the darkest chapters in the history of Catholic and Protestant relations with the Jews.”

Hagee’s support for McCain has drawn cries of outrage from some Catholic leaders who have called on McCain to reject Hagee’s endorsement. The likely Republican nominee has said he does not agree with some of Hagee’s past comments, but did not reject his support.

In a letter to William Donohue, president of the Catholic League for Civil and Religious Rights, Hagee wrote: “Out of a desire to advance a greater unity among Catholics and evangelicals in promoting the common good, I want to express my deep regret for any comments that Catholics have found hurtful.”

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Attorneys for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY,	Civil Action No. 04-0175D
Plaintiff,	NOTICE OF AUCTION
-vs-	
ISLAND SECURITY SERVICES, INC., JOAQUIN V. GUERRERO and ESTHER A. GUERRERO,	Defendants.

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, hereinafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the right, title, and interest of the Defendants Island Security Services, Inc., Joaquin V. Guerrero and Esther A. Guerrero in the following described real properties situated in Gualo Rio, Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Lot No. 1879 “A”-R4, Lot No. 1879 “A”-4 and Lot No. 1879 “A”-3 (formerly known as Lot No. 1879 “A”-R3), situated in Gualo Rai, Saipan, CNMI, containing an area of 1,389 square meters, 1,073 square meters and 1,072 square meters, respectively, as shown on the Parcel Survey Plat of Lot No. 1879 “A”-R3, DLS Check No. 2153/95, the original of which was filed at the Commonwealth Recorder’s Office, as File No. 95-2194 on September 1, 1995;

and

Lot No. 1602S-R1, situated in Gualo Rai, Saipan, CNMI, containing an area of 10,988 square meters, more or less, as particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2171/88;

and

Lot No. 1879 “A”-R2, situated in Gualo Rai, Saipan, CNMI, containing an area of 4,142 square meters, more or less, as particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2100/87.

The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at CDA’s Conference Room, Saipan, at **2:00 p.m., on Friday, May 16, 2008**, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

- Minimum Bid. No minimum opening bid.**
- Reserve. The auction shall be held with reserve.
- Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auctions with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction:
 - To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
 - To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.
- Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Oscar C. Camacho, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7145, Fax: 235-7147; or to F. Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
- Deposit, Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier’s check or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer’s rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.
- Change of Terms. Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
- Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the titles and properties; contact CDA for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Island Security Services, Inc., Joaquin V. Guerrero and Esther A. Guerrero in the properties are being sold “AS IS” and without warranty, and subject to the redemption laws of the CNMI. Failure to inspect the real properties will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 22nd day of April 2008.

/s/ CLAUDIO K. NORITA, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety

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Attorneys for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY,	Civil Action No. 05-0561C
Plaintiff,	AMENDED NOTICE OF AUCTION
-vs-	
TRIPLE A, INC., JOSEPH A. ARRIOLA, and ANTHONY A. ARRIOLA,	Defendants.

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, hereinafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the right, title, and interest of the Defendants Triple A Inc., Joseph A. Arriola and Anthony A. Arriola in the following described real property situated in Rota, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Tract 21769-3-4 (formerly part of Tract 21769-3, which was part of Tract 21769, also known as Lot 352 R 01, AH 72), Rota, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 3005/95 the original of which was recorded 16 February 1995 as Document No. 95-384 at Commonwealth Recorder’s Office, Saipan;

Tract 21769-3-5 (formerly part of Tract 21769-3, which was part of Tract 21769, also known as Lot 352 R 01, AH 72), Rota, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 3005/95 the original of which was recorded 16 February 1995 as Document No. 95-384 at Commonwealth Recorder’s Office, Saipan;

The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at CDA’s Conference Room, Saipan, at **2:00 p.m., on Friday, May 16, 2008**, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

- Minimum Bid. No minimum opening bid.**
- Reserve. The auction shall be held with reserve.
- Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auctions with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction:
 - To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
 - To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.
- Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Oscar C. Camacho, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7145, Fax: 235-7147; or to F. Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
- Deposit, Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier’s check or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer’s rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.
- Change of Terms. Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
- Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact CDA for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of (list all) in the property are being sold “AS IS” and without warranty, and subject to the redemption laws of the CNMI. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 14th day of April 2008.

/s/ CLAUDIO K. NORITA, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety

Asia

Soldiers hike to quake-buried Chinese villages

MIANYANG, China (AP)—Soldiers hiking over landslide-blocked roads reached the epicenter of China's devastating earthquake Tuesday, pulling bodies and a few survivors from collapsed buildings. The death toll of more than 12,000 was certain to rise as the buried were found.

Rescuers worked through a steady rain searching wrecked towns across hilly stretches of Sichuan province that were stricken by Monday's magnitude-7.9 quake, China's deadliest in three decades. Tens of thousands spent a second night outdoors, some sleeping under plastic sheeting, others bused to a stadium in the city of Mianyang, on the edge of the disaster area.

Street lamps were switched on in Mianyang on Tuesday night, but all the buildings were dark and deserted after the government ordered people out of them for fear of aftershocks. Security guards were posted at apartment blocks to keep people out.

The industrial city of 700,000 people—home to the headquarters of China's nuclear weapons design industry—was turned into a thronging refugee camp, with residents sleeping outdoors.

"I'm cold. I don't dare to sleep, and I'm worried a building is going to fall down on me," said Tang Ling, a 20-year-old waitress wrapped in a borrowed pink down jacket and camped outside the Juyuan restaurant with three co-workers. "What's happened is so cruel. In one minute to have so many people die is too tragic."

As night fell, a first wave of 200 soldiers entered the town of Wenchuan, near the epicenter,



Residents watch rescue efforts as it rains in Dujiangyan, southwestern China's Sichuan province, Tuesday, May 13, 2008.

AP

Trapped students had little time to escape quake

JUYUAN, China (AP)—The high school students were settling in to afternoon arts and humanities classes when the massive quake struck. The school collapsed so rapidly—one floor "pancaking" atop another—that there was practically no time to escape.

As orange-suited rescue teams searched the wreckage for survivors, worried and sometimes wailing parents watched amid a cold, steady drizzle Tuesday.

Troops lined two deep kept the emotional family members away from the teams working with cranes and hand tools.

"You tell us to wait. We can't wait anymore. We must have some information," a woman pleaded with soldiers at the edge of what was left of the school in Juyuan.

The grief unleashed by Monday's magnitude-7.9 earthquake was etched across this farming and manufacturing town perched in the foothills of the Tibetan highlands.

All but a handful of the more than 900 upperclassmen were believed trapped under the slabs of cement, bricks, tile and twisted cables. Only one survivor has been found: a girl pulled free by a rescue team. Her identity has not been released.

Juyuan was a magnet school attracting the region's top students, ranging from seventh grade to ninth grade, many of them from isolated communities who boarded in an adjacent dormitory.

trudging across ruptured roads and mudslides, state television said. Initial reports from troops said one nearby town could ac-

count for only 2,300 survivors out of 9,000 people, China Central Television said.

The soldiers continued their

efforts on Wednesday morning, heralding the grim prospect that the death toll would soon take another jump. Initial reports from

soldiers said one nearby town could account for only 2,300 survivors out of 9,000 people, China Central Television said.

Myanmar police block aid workers, food piles up

Aid agencies see China coping with quake, focus on Myanmar

GENEVA (AP)—International aid agencies are standing ready to help China recover from its massive earthquake, but the Chinese appear to have operations well in hand, officials said Tuesday.

The United Nations sent a letter to Chinese authorities informing them that a team of experts is ready should China want aid, said Elisabeth Byrs, spokeswoman for the U.N. Office for Humanitarian Affairs.

"If China doesn't have sufficient means or if it needs additional expertise, it would appeal to the U.N.," she said.

But aid officials said China typically can handle its disasters on its own and had demonstrated a quick, thorough response to the 7.9-magnitude quake that hit central China on Monday, leaving nearly 12,000 dead and thousands more missing. Chinese rescue experts moved swiftly into the rubble, backed up by some 34,000 troops.

"The Chinese have a long expertise in natural disasters, and they are equipped and trained," Byrs said, noting that China is able to use its expertise in helping other countries.

"The situation in Myanmar would require additional capacity and additional expertise in order to supplement the efforts of the government," she said.

The Chinese government said it would welcome outside aid supplies, but not relief workers.

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Police barred foreign aid workers from reaching cyclone survivors in hard-hit areas Tuesday, while emergency food shipments backed up at the main airport for Myanmar's biggest city.

Relief workers reported some storm survivors were being given spoiled or poor-quality food rather than nutrition-rich biscuits sent by international donors, adding to fears that the ruling military junta in the Southeast Asian country could be misappropriating assistance.

U.N. officials warned that the threat was escalating for the 2 million people facing disease and hunger in low-lying areas battered by the storm unless relief efforts increased dramatically.

Ten days after the tempest, reaching the worst-affected areas was getting more and more difficult.

Checkpoints manned by armed police were set up Tues-

day on roads leading to the Irrawaddy River delta and all international aid workers and journalists were turned back by officers who took down their names and passport numbers. Drivers were interrogated.

"No foreigners allowed," one policeman said after waving a car back.

Supplies piled up at Yangon's main airport, which does not have equipment to lift cargo off big Boeing 747s. It took 200 Burmese volunteers to unload by hand a plane carrying more than 60 tons of relief supplies, including school tents, said Dubai Cares, a United Arab Emirates aid group.

A report from a Tuesday meeting of the U.N. center overseeing logistics said the airport was a bottleneck in the aid effort. "Discharging operations at Yangon airport are hampered by limitations of handling equipment, fuel availability and worsening weather conditions," it said.

The report said Britain's Department for International Development had offered to send in machinery for unloading jumbo jets and other aircraft.

With rain falling on Yangon on Tuesday and downpours predicted later this week, aid officials also said there was not enough warehouse space to protect the supplies beginning to flow in after the regime agreed to accept foreign help.

Even the quicker pace is not enough, U.N. officials warned.

"We fear a second catastrophe (in Myanmar) unless we're able to put in place quickly a maximum of aid and a major logistical effort comparable with the response to the (2004) tsunami," said Elisabeth Byrs of the U.N. Office for Humanitarian Affairs.

The tsunami killed more than 230,000 people in a dozen nations around the Indian Ocean, prompting the largest relief operation ever known. Tens of thousands of aid workers poured

80 killed by bombs in western India

NEW DELHI (AP)—A series of bombs exploded across the ancient city of Jaipur on Tuesday, killing at least 80 people and transforming busy markets, a jewelry bazaar and a Hindu temple into scenes of carnage.

All seven blasts were within the old walls of the western city known for its pink-hued palaces, and suspicion quickly fell on Islamic militant groups blamed for a string of attacks in India in recent years. Police said an eighth bomb was found and defused by police.

"Obviously, it's a terrorist attack," said A.S. Gill, the police chief of Rajasthan, the state where Jaipur is located. "The way it has been done, the attempt was to cause the maximum damage to human life."

The explosions began around 7:30 p.m. One went off at a market near a temple dedicated to the Hindu monkey god Hanuman. Tuesday is the day of worship set aside for Hanuman, and the temple was crowded with people offering prayers on the way home from work.

Another bomb detonated near the Johari Bazaar, the city's jewelry market that is a popular destination for tourists. The tourist season ended in March, however, and there were no immediate indication that foreigners had been caught in any of the explosions.

Parikshit Bhandari, who saw the attack near the jewelry market, said there was "blood all around and wounded people crawling on the ground."

Bombing sites were littered with dropped shopping bags, mangled bicycles, damaged cars and overturned bicycle rickshaws, the most popular mode of transport in the crowded lanes of Jaipur.

Police said Wednesday that several people had died from their wounds in hospitals overnight, pushing the death toll from 60 to 80. The number of wounded also increased to about 200 from 150, after officials developed a better picture of carnage.

No one claimed responsibility for the attack, as is the case with most bombings in India. But within hours of the blasts, authorities were suggesting that blame would eventually fall on Pakistan and the Islamic militant groups that India accuses its neighbor of backing.

"One can't rule out the involvement of a foreign power," said India's junior home minister, Sriprakash Jaiswal, using language commonly understood to refer to Pakistan.

Jaiswal refused to say if he was talking about Pakistan. But he suggested the bombings were connected to previous attacks on India, saying that "the blasts are part of a big conspiracy."

World

Saudis send sharp warning to Iran over Lebanon

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP)—Saudi Arabia sent Iran a sharp warning over Lebanon Tuesday, saying Tehran's support for Hezbollah will damage its relations with other Muslim and Arab countries.

More soldiers fanned out through Beirut, with orders to use force to restore security to a nation shaken by nearly a week of sectarian clashes. Lebanese buried more of their dead and tried to resume life in a capital dissected by roadblocks.

What began as a political struggle 1 1/2 years ago with

Shiite ministers bolting from the Cabinet devolved last week into Lebanon's worst fighting since the end of the 1975-1990 civil war, with at least 54 people dead and scores wounded.

Shiite Hezbollah guerrillas and allied Amal gunmen have swept through large Sunni swaths of Beirut, neighborhoods that support the government of Prime Minister Fuad Saniora, a Sunni.

On Tuesday, the strife between Lebanon's government supporters and opponents expanded into a wider regional

standoff between Sunni powerhouse Saudi Arabia and the world's largest Shiite nation, Iran. Iran supports Hezbollah and Saudi Arabia backs Saniora's Sunni-led government.

"Of course, Iran is backing what happened in Lebanon, a coup, and supports it," Saudi Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal told a news conference in Riyadh, in the most pointed criticism of Tehran. "This will affect (Iran's) relations with all Arab countries, if not Islamic states as well."

Iranian President Mahmoud

Ahmadinejad shot back by saying Saud's comments were made in anger and likely did not conform to the views of Saudi

King Abdullah. He said Iran was the only country that does not interfere in Lebanon's internal affairs.

President Bush weighed in earlier, telling Al-Arabiya television Monday that Washington would continue to support the Lebanese government and military, and would keep up pressure on Iran and Syria. The U.S. considers Hezbollah a terrorist organization and has repeatedly called for it to disarm.

As Bush travels to the Middle East Wednesday for a trip that includes visits to Saudi Arabia and Egypt, the flare-up is a sign that nervousness is growing about Iran's expanding influence.

Sunni Arab countries like Saudi Arabia and Egypt worry that Iran wants to flex its muscle and assume a larger and strategic role in the region - taking power and influence that was historically theirs.

Iran, in turn, accuses U.S.-allied Arab countries like Egypt of merely bending to America's will and pushing its agenda in the region.

National Security Adviser Stephen Hadley, who is traveling with Bush, told reporters that the U.S. is trying to rally international support for Lebanon's U.S.-backed government.



Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal, looks on, during a press conference in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Tuesday, May 13, 2008. AP

Divers find Caesar bust that may date to 46 B.C.

PARIS (AP)—Divers trained in archaeology discovered a marble bust of an aging Caesar in the Rhone River that France's Culture Ministry said Tuesday could be the oldest known.

The life-sized bust showing

the Roman ruler with wrinkles and hollows in his face is tentatively dated to 46 B.C. Divers uncovered the Caesar bust and a collection of other finds in the Rhone near the town of Arles—founded by Caesar.

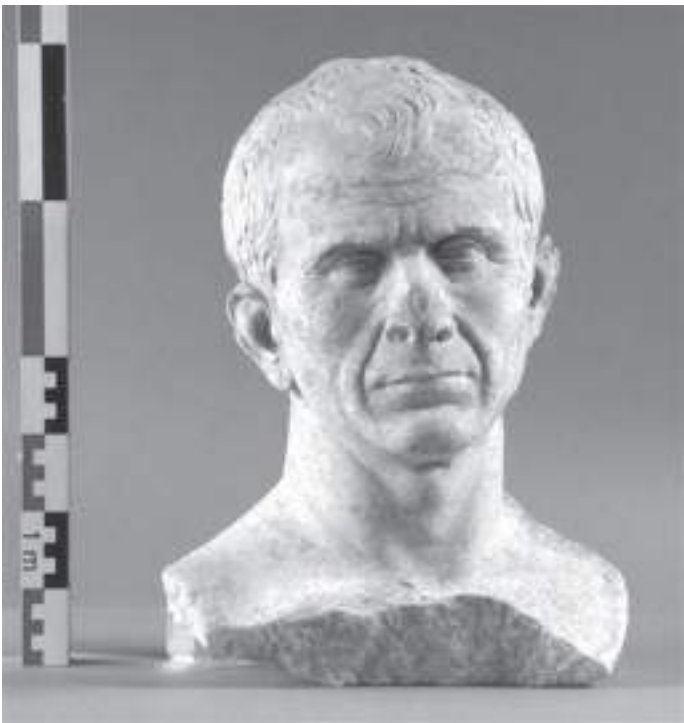
Among other items in the treasure trove of ancient objects is a 5.9-foot marble statue of Neptune, dated to the first decade of the third century after Christ.

Two smaller statues, both in bronze and measuring 27.5 inches each also were found, one of them, a satyr with his hands tied behind his back, "doubtless" originated in Hellenic Greece, the ministry said.

"Some (of the discoveries) are unique in Europe," Culture Minister Christine Albanel said. The bust of Caesar is in a class by itself.

"This marble bust of the founder of the Roman city of Arles constitutes the most ancient representation known today of Caesar," the ministry statement said, adding that it "undoubtedly" dates to the creation of Arles in 46 B.C.

Among other things, researchers are trying to uncover "in what context these statues were thrown into the river," said Michel L'Hour, who heads the Department of Subaquatic Archaeological Research, whose divers made the discovery between September and October 2007.



AP

In this undated image released by France's Culture Ministry Tuesday May 13, 2008, a life size marble bust of Julius Cesar is seen.

WORLD BRIEFS

Sudan: 200 died in Darfur rebel raid near Khartoum

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP)—More than 200 people were killed in fighting around Sudan's capital over the weekend, the defense minister announced Tuesday in the first official comment on casualties during the assault by Darfur rebels. Gen. Abdul Rahim Mohammed Hussein told parliament that the attackers sent by the rebel Justice and Equality Movement suffered a crushing defeat, with at least two-thirds of the their 180 vehicles destroyed, according to the official SUNA news agency. Sudanese were shocked by the rebel assault on the outskirts of Khartoum, hundreds of miles from their bases in the west. The raid was the closest that Darfur's rebels have gotten to the seat of the government.

'Darth Vader' spared jail in Jedi church attacks

HOLYHEAD, Wales (AP)—A man who dressed up as Darth Vader, wearing a garbage bag for a cape, and assaulted the founders of a group calling itself the Jedi church was given a suspended sentence Tuesday. Arwel Wynne Hughes, 27, attacked Jedi church founder Barney Jones—aka

Master Jonba Hehol—with a metal crutch, hitting him on the head, prosecutors told Holyhead Magistrates' Court. He also whacked Jones' 18-year-old cousin, Michael Jones—known as Master Morni Hehol—bruising his thigh in the March 25 incident, prosecutors said. The two cousins and Barney Jones' brother, Daniel, set up the Church of Jediism, Anglesey order, last year. Jedi is the faith followed by some of the central characters in the "Star Wars" films.

US wants to boost Trinidad energy ties

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad (AP)—A top U.S. energy official says Washington wants to boost ties with Trinidad and Tobago, a Caribbean nation that is the No. 1 supplier of liquid natural gas to the United States. U.S. Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman says it is "absolutely necessary" to protect the two countries' oil and gas pipelines and drilling platforms. Bodman also told business leaders in Trinidad's capital Tuesday that the U.S. hopes to expand its energy partnership with Trinidad beyond natural gas. He did not say in which areas. Trinidad is the Caribbean's second-largest energy producer after Venezuela.

Cease-fire holds in Sadr City after deadly clashes

BAGHDAD (AP)—A shaky cease-fire appeared to take hold Tuesday in Baghdad's Sadr City, after a cleric who brokered the deal for Shiite fighters said they would honor it even after clashes left at least 11 dead and 19 wounded.

The pact was intended to stop seven weeks of fighting between U.S.-supported Iraqi troops and Shiite extremists who have fired more than 1,000 mortars and rockets into the Green Zone, home to the government and Western embassies. But the cease-fire did not start well, with clashes late Monday and early Tuesday.

Iraqi medics reported 11 killed and 19 wounded. There were women and children among the wounded, said hospital officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media. The U.S. military said Tuesday it could confirm the deaths of six militants.

In unrelated violence in northern Iraq, a roadside bombing killed five Iraqi soldiers Tuesday in Mosul, police said, also speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media. Iraqi troops and U.S. soldiers have launched an operation against Sunni extremists there.

A U.S. soldier was killed just before dark Tuesday when a roadside bomb exploded next to his vehicle in northwest Bagh-

dad, the military said. At least 4,077 U.S. military personnel have died in the Iraq war since it began in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

The Sadr City fighting and cease-fire have brought into question the authority of anti-American cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, who currently lives in

IRA dissidents blamed for bomb

DUBLIN, Ireland (AP)—Northern Ireland's police chief accused Irish Republican Army dissidents Tuesday of planting a booby-trap bomb that exploded overnight beneath a policeman's car, destroying the vehicle and wounding the officer.

The bomb, attached to the bottom of the car beneath the driver's seat, detonated as the officer was driving to work Monday night near Castlederg in the remote, rural west of Northern Ireland.

The officer was saved by a civilian who dragged him from the burning wreckage, but suffered serious leg wounds that required two surgeries Tuesday, the Police Service of Northern Ireland said. The victim was not identified but was described as a Catholic who joined the predominantly Protestant police force three years ago.

Politicians from all sides—most notably from the IRA-linked Sinn Fein party—united to denounce the dissidents.

Sinn Fein deputy leader Martin McGuinness, the former IRA

commander who serves today as the senior Catholic in Northern Ireland's power-sharing government, visited the wounded officer in hospital. It was the first time in Northern Ireland history that a senior Sinn Fein figure made such a gesture.

Lt. Col. Steve Stover, a military spokesman for American troops in Baghdad, said Tuesday that the fighting was caused by "special groups," Shiite factions that have broken with al-Sadr.

McGuinness said the attack was "particularly selfish and spiteful, and carried out by people who represent no one." He and other senior Sinn Fein officials called on Catholics to tell police about the dissidents in their midst and to testify against them in court if required.

The dissidents seek to continue the IRA's failed 1970-97 campaign to force Northern Ireland out of the United Kingdom, an effort that killed 1,775 people, including nearly 300 police officers. The IRA disarmed and renounced violence in 2005, and Sinn Fein abandoned its official hostility to the police in 2007.

Chief Constable Hugh Orde accused IRA dissidents of seeking to "drive Northern Ireland back to the dark ages."

Environment

Got plans for the summer? Go underwater!

Go underwater this summer and learn more about the marine environment as a biosearch volunteer.

Biosearch is a program designed to encourage anyone with an interest in the marine ecosystem, who is a strong swimmer, to help improve our understanding and management of the CNMI's marine environment.

John Starmer, coordinator of the program said, "By combining the efforts and observations of many, many volunteer divers it is possible to gain previously unavailable insight into the local marine environment."

This has not been possible with annual surveys at specific sites. The more participants, the greater information can be collected about marine animals and the environment.

Animals such as sea turtles, sharks, and certain large fish have become less common over the years. Biosearch will help with our understanding of where these animals can still be found and if there are areas that they seem to consistently prefer. This will help us identify areas that deserve enhanced management consideration. Some animals, such as *Acanthaster planci* (the crown-of-thorns starfish), are known to go through population explosions that can have serious effects on reef communities. Information about when and where these outbreaks



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Some animals, such as *Acanthaster planci* (the crown-of-thorns starfish), are known to go through population explosions that can have serious effects on reef communities.

are occurring improve the chances of effectively managing them.

Occasionally, short-term environmental changes occur and have long-lasting effects on local marine life. A

and silt pollution from on shore runoff might operate on a more continuous basis, and by documenting the repeat occurrences of these discharges, man-



A rare species of sea cucumber.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

agement efforts can be better targeted address the problems. "Volunteer observations and reports have helped drive a multi-agency effort to revegetate the watershed at Lau Lau Bay shore dive site," added Starmer.

There are currently 40 active participants in the program.

For more information, contact John Starmer at Coastal Resources Management at 664-8300 or john.starmer@crm.gov.mp or go online at <http://www.cnmicoralreef.net/biosearch/biosearch.htm>. (Coco)

There are currently 40 active participants in the program.

Show island pride, adopt a beach



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Last year, SaipanCell Communications adopted the 13 Fishermen Monument beach south to Oleai Beach Bar.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Shirley's Coffee Shop adopted Susupe Beach Park to Sugar Dock and continues to participate in the Adopt A Beach program for 2008.

"Tourism is everybody's business" is the slogan for this year's CNMI Tourism Month, and Marianas Visitor's Authority organized a cleanup day to kick off the scheduled activities.

Tinian will also be going green this month, with various organizations

and student clubs cleaning up trash, planting trees and ornamentals at bare roadsides and other sites for visiting tourists and island residents.

So why not choose the month of May to show your island pride and adopt a beach.

The Division of Environmental Quality coordinates the Adopt A beach program. "The Adopt-a-Beach program is an anti-litter and beach clean up campaign intended to promote pride and natural resource stewardship in the Commonwealth," said Reina Camacho, DEQ's spokesperson.

Camacho added there are many benefits to the program. It keeps our beaches clean and safe; enhances and preserves the environment; improves attractiveness of our beaches; increases public awareness of the effects of littering; reminds people not to litter. Families, schools, businesses and community-based organizations can participate in the year-round program by cleaning beaches, conducting litter monitoring and ensuring beautiful and clean marine waters.

Camacho said, "litter is not only unattractive; it is also harmful to the environment. Did you know it takes over hundreds and hundreds of years for plastic and styrofoam containers to decompose?"

Groups can adopt a beach at any time and are asked to clean the entire beach park four times a year (depending on the volume of anticipated litter) for at least one year. DEQ will also supply litterbags and gloves for the adoption (upon request and availability of supplies). Joint adoptions (two or more organizations) are also encouraged.

Show island pride; join the Adopt A Beach program. Sign up today at environment@deq.gov.mp or visit DEQ online at <http://www.deq.gov.mp>. (Coco)

Shower Power!

How many milk cartons can you fill with water from a five-minute shower?

a.) 5 b.) 15 c.) 50

When you shower, you use five gallons of water every minute! So everyday, you could use 25 gallons of water taking one shower.

Taking a bath uses more water—about twice as much.

There are secrets to saving water while you shower.

Install a "low-flow" showerhead. This adds air to the water, so it cuts the amount of shower water used from five gallons a minute to two and a half.

Turn off the water as you soap, shampoo or shave.

You can also save water by turning off the water as you brush your teeth. Instead, half fill a glass and use that to wet your brush and rinse your mouth. (Coco)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Installing low-flow showerheads uses less water and saves money.

Use of wind energy expected to grow dramatically



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Wind energy today accounts for only about 1 percent of the nation's electricity, although the industry has been on a growth binge with a 45 percent jump in production last year.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Two decades from now Americans could get as much electricity from windmills as from nuclear power plants, according to a government report that lays out a possible plan for wind energy growth.

The report, a collaboration between the Energy Department research labs and industry, concludes wind energy could generate 20 percent of the nation's electricity by 2030, about the same share now produced by nuclear reactors.

Such growth would pose a number of major challenges, but is achievable without the need of major new technological breakthroughs, said the report released Monday.

"The report indicates that we can do this nationally for less than half a cent per kilowatt hour if we have the vision," said Andrew Karsner, the Energy Department's assistant secretary for efficiency and renewable energy.

If achieved, it would be an astounding leap.

Wind energy today accounts for only about 1 percent of the nation's electricity, although the industry has been on a growth binge with a 45 percent jump in production last year.

Life & Style

New Carter book tells life of 'remarkable mother'

By **DORIE TURNER**
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

ATLANTA (AP)—Former President Jimmy Carter often sent his mother to meet with foreign dignitaries and attend state funerals, but it wasn't until he started researching a new book about her life that he learned just what the woman known as "Miss Lillian" did on those visits.

"Mama had developed a reputation for expressing unorthodox opinions and not being constrained by any outside advice," Carter writes in "A Remarkable Mother," which chronicles Lillian's life from her birth in 1898 to her death from cancer in 1983. "The officials in the State Department were always quite nervous about what she would do or say that might violate protocol and damage relations between our government and that of the country she was visiting."

The book is constructed from diaries, letters and interviews with family and friends.

"It was a lot of fun for me to

write," Carter said in a recent telephone interview with The Associated Press. "I learned a lot I hadn't known before."

One such tidbit? His mother, on visiting Rome, brushed aside prepared remarks and told the media she was happy to be there for three reasons, among them that she had "never met an ugly Italian."

Her blunt and unorthodox ways often embarrassed her peanut farmer-turned-politician son, who spent many White House press conferences answering questions about comments his mother had made the previous day.

"She would go on the Johnny Carson show, Merv Griffin show or even Walter Cronkite and just take over the program," Jimmy Carter said. "It was a problem for me because often I would be called on to comment on what my mother had said in a ridiculous give-and-take with Merv Griffin. I would just grin and bear it."

The book paints a picture of a woman charming enough to meet with foreign dignitaries and down

home enough to prefer fishing over most any other activity.

She gave more than 600 public speeches both in the U.S. and overseas during her lifetime and befriended the likes of Shirley MacLaine, Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin.

She met Bob Dylan, Elvis, two Popes and a whole list of foreign presidents.

Jimmy, her eldest son, considered her his secret weapon during his 1976 presidential campaign.

"Since I ultimately defeated Gerald Ford by a very narrow margin, I think it's accurate to say had my mama not been out on the campaign trail, I probably would not have won," Jimmy Carter said. "By the time the other candidates woke to what was happening, they had already lost the election."

Even before her son became commander in chief, Lillian Carter was making social and political waves.

She was a nurse in the small town of Plains, Ga., often treat-

ing black families when such behavior was taboo in the racially divided South. She insisted black visitors enter through the front door when social customs dictated they use the back.

"It's important to show the American people what a superb American citizen might be ..." Carter said. "She was indomitable, she was courageous and she didn't yield to public pressure when she thought she was right."

In 2006, Jimmy Carter and his wife visited Vikhroli, India, where Lillian Carter had volunteered to serve in the Peace Corps at age 68, spending two years working with lepers. The couple was besieged by dozens of villagers telling stories about the Carter family matriarch, even though 40 years had passed since her stay there.

The former president reflects on the visit in the postscript of his new book: "Our hearts filled with pride and our eyes with tears, as we thought about how many other lives had been affected by my mother."



AP

This photo provided by Opera America shows Dana Gioia, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, right and tenor Placido Domingo on Tuesday May 13, 2008 in New York.

Price, Levine, Floyd, and Gaddes to get NEA honors

NEW YORK (AP)—Soprano Leontyne Price, conductor James Levine, composer Carlisle Floyd and administrator Richard Gaddes will be the initial recipients of the National Endowment for the Arts Opera Honors.

The awards, patterned after the NEA Jazz Masters honors that were established in 1982, will be handed out during a ceremony Oct. 31 at the Harman Center for the Arts in Washington.

Speaking at a news conference to announce the prizes, tenor Placido Domingo said he hopes it's a step toward establishing "the Oscars of the opera."

What would they be called?

"The Mozarts," he suggested. "The Verdis?"

NEA Chairman Dana Gioia said only living Americans will be eligible for the NEA honors. While Domingo was born in Spain, he helped launch the awards because he is general director of the Washington National Opera and the Los Angeles Opera.

Price was among the top American sopranos and a breakthrough African-American singer, starring at the Metropolitan Opera from 1961 to '85. Levine has been the leading force at the Met as chief conductor and then music director since 1973, and in 2004 he became music director of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Floyd is best known for composing "Susannah," "Of Mice and Men" and "Cold Sassy Tree." Gaddes is general director of the Santa Fe Opera and in 1976 founded the Opera Theater of St. Louis.

Gioia said authorization for the honors was given by Congress in legislation that was signed by President Bush. Gioia said the United States had always been shy about national honors for living artists, and that the country should be more active in celebrating its artistic heritage.

He wanted the honors to be specific to opera, not to classical music in general.

"You don't want to lose focus," he said.

Spector recording engineer Levine dies

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Larry Levine, the recording engineer who helped Phil Spector reinvent rock 'n' roll music with his "Wall of Sound" technique and won a Grammy for his work with Herb Alpert, died on his 80th birthday, his family said Tuesday.

Levine's wife, Lyn, said he died at his Encino home on May 8. He had suffered from severe emphysema, according to relatives.

In a recent interview with The Associated Press, Levine recalled meeting Spector in the 1960s and beginning a collaboration that lasted for many years.

"He said to me he had the sound in his head that he wanted to create," said Levine, and the engineer set out to build the lush sound that involved dozens of musicians and instruments as

well as echo chambers.

Their first collaboration was on the teen anthem, "He's a Rebel," which Levine helped Spector record in 1962. It would bring stardom to the girl group, the Crystals, just as "Be My Baby" would do for the Ronettes.

Levine was the engineer on such Spector produced classics as "Da Doo Ron Ron" and the Righteous Brothers', "You've Lost that Lovin' Feeling," the song cited by BMI as the most played in the history of U.S. radio.

Levine was born in New York on May 8, 1928, and grew up in Los Angeles. After serving in the Army during the Korean War he learned to be a recording engineer from his cousin, Stan Ross, who was co-owner of Gold Star Recording Studios in Hollywood.

NBC says Fallon to succeed O'Brien on 'Late Night'

NEW YORK (AP)—Jimmy Fallon's eighth-grade yearbook at St. Mary of the Snow in Saugerties, N.Y., listed him as "most likely to take over for David Letterman." Letterman's not going anywhere, but close enough: Fallon is succeeding Conan O'Brien as the host of NBC's "Late Night" sometime in the middle of next year.

NBC on Monday made official a plan that's been talked about since 2003, when a network executive first broached the idea of doing a talk show with the former "Saturday Night Live" star.

"I've been doing a monologue in my living room the last three years and it was embarrassing," Fallon joked at a news conference.

However, he said, "my wife seemed to like it."

NBC's plan is to have O'Brien move west to take over for Jay Leno at the "Tonight" show next year. After a break to refurbish the Rockefeller Center studio where O'Brien now works, the 33-year-old Fallon will take over.

The Fallon transition is being managed by Lorne Michaels, who famously picked O'Brien out of obscurity to fill Letterman's old slot at NBC, then stuck with him despite savage early reviews.

Fallon, who left "SNL" in 2004 for a lukewarm movie career, should have an easier time of it, he said.

"You're never really certain of these things, but I just think he's built for it," Michaels said.



AP

TV Personality Jimmy Fallon speaks at a news conference on Monday, May 12, 2008, in New York, where he was named the new host of NBC's "Late Night" show, when Conan O'Brien takes over the "Tonight Show".

"You've just seen that he's really funny, he's smart and he has a really, really good work ethic."

Despite its prime-time woes, NBC has managed to maintain its late-night dominance in the ratings, although O'Brien has been challenged lately by Craig Ferguson on CBS. Now it is attempting a tricky transition based on a promise made nearly four years ago that O'Brien would succeed Leno.

Leno continues to be the king of late-night, and NBC is trying to keep him at NBC Universal with some job other than "Tonight" host. If NBC were to renege on the deal made to O'Brien, the "Late Night" host would reportedly be owed a penalty fee of about \$40 million.

Jeff Zucker, NBC president and CEO, would not comment Monday on the state of talks with Leno, or what NBC is of-

fering. Leno would undoubtedly draw interest from ABC and Fox if he wanted to work the same hours.

"That's something he's got to decide and I think that's the question," Zucker said. "That's a good question. I don't think he knows."

Fallon worked alongside Tina Fey on the "Weekend Update" segment on "Saturday Night Live." He's also known for his impersonations of Barry Gibb, Adam Sandler and Jerry Seinfeld.

It was Rick Ludwin, chief late-night executive at NBC, who said he raised the idea of a talk show future with Fallon in 2003. He'd watch Fallon talk comfortably backstage with Hollywood stars and stagehands alike, and those simple conversational skills are crucial to the job.

Still, there are plenty of details to work out, including the show's format and whether he has a sidekick or band.

"I'm not sure I'm going to reinvent the wheel with the talk-show format," Fallon said. "There's no need."

Besides being a personable character the audience enjoys, a prospective talk show host needs to commit to the hard work, the NBC executives said. At least for the first few months, Fallon will be working five nights a week because no reruns are built up.

"I really plan to give my all on this," Fallon said. "My wife, she left me a note this morning saying, 'Nice knowing you.'"

Grammer: 'Back to You' won't be back on Fox

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kelsey Grammer said Tuesday that Fox is dropping his sitcom "Back to You," calling the decision a surprise and a shame. "They have let it go," Grammer told The Associated Press. "We were told all this time we were in good shape and we were coming back."

On Friday, Grammer taped an appearance on Jimmy Kimmel's talk show promoting the series. When the veteran sitcom star ("Cheers," "Frasier") arrived home later that evening he received a call telling him that the show was canceled.

"Back to You," co-starring Patricia Heaton and set in a Pittsburgh TV station newsroom, debuted strongly last fall with nearly 9.5 million viewers. But its audience has slipped, with last week's episode drawing just under 7 million viewers.

Television watching overall is down, a trend that's been blamed in part on lingering effects of a 100-day writers strike that shut down TV production.

Fox's fall schedule is set to be announced Thursday in New York. The network declined comment on the fate of "Back to You."

Grammer said he spoke with Fox executives Peter Liguori and Kevin Reilly on Saturday and that they didn't fully explain the decision. He speculated that



This undated file photo originally provided by Fox Broadcasting Co., shows actors Kelsey Grammer and Patricia Heaton as they deliver the evening newscast in an episode of the Fox TV series "Back To You."

their interest in the show had "waned" so they were unwilling to be patient with it.

"I'm not really sure what the real reasoning is. I think they ended up with a show that was going to be a great show. It was a great show," he said.

An online petition campaign is afoot to save the show and Grammer and his wife, Camille, sent an e-mail note to friends inviting them to jump aboard. Grammer said he's "nursing a tiny hope" that CBS might pick up the show after talking with

CBS CEO Leslie Moonves.

"I spoke with Les the other day and he was not completely discouraging," Grammer said, wryly.

Grammer and his wife e-mailed friends that if they wished to voice support for the show to CBS, "you won't hear us complaining."

In an interview, Grammer dismissed talk that the show, with two high-profile TV stars in him and Heaton ("Everybody Loves Raymond"), was too costly for Fox.

"That's rarely a stumbling

block if they really want a show," he said. "There are ways around that. They just really didn't want it."

But, he said, this week's episode (8 p.m. EDT Wednesday) is excellent and an example of why "Back to You" deserves to continue.

"It does exactly what you want a sitcom to do. Granted, there are new trends in viewing and it's edgy to watch something with no laugh track," Grammer said. "But when the old form is firing it's the funniest form in the world."

Honda robot conducts Detroit Symphony to warm response

DETROIT (AP)—The lights dimmed, the sold-out hall grew hushed and out walked the conductor—shiny, white, 4 feet 3 inches tall.

ASIMO, a robot designed by Honda Motor Co., met its latest challenge Tuesday evening: Conducting the Detroit Symphony in a performance of "The Impossible Dream" from "Man of La Mancha."

"Hello, everyone," ASIMO said to the audience in a child-like voice, then waved to the orchestra.

As it conducted, it perfectly mimicked the actions of a conductor, nodding its head at various sections and gesturing with one or both hands. ASIMO took a final bow to enthusiastic shouts from the audience.

"It is absolutely thrilling to perform with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. This is a magnificent concert hall," ASIMO said.

Later, cellist Yo-Yo Ma joined ASIMO onstage to receive an award for his efforts in music education. Ma bent to ASIMO's height and shook the robot's hand. Ma performed later on the program but didn't take questions from the media about ASIMO.

Honda spokeswoman Alicia Jones said it was the first time ASIMO has conducted an orchestra, and it may be the first

time any robot has conducted a live performance. ASIMO stands for Advanced Step in Innovative Mobility.

ASIMO has its limits. ASIMO's engineers programmed the robot to mimic Charles Burke, the Detroit Symphony's education director, as he conducted the piece in front of a pianist about six months ago. But it can't respond to the musicians.

During the first rehearsal, the orchestra lost its place when ASIMO began to slow the tempo, something a human conductor would have sensed

and corrected, said bassist Larry Hutchinson.

"It's not a communicative device. It simply is programmed to do a sense of gestures," said Leonard Slatkin, the orchestra's musical director. "If the orchestra decides to go faster, there's nothing the robot can do about it. Hopefully, I keep that under control."

But several musicians also said ASIMO was more realistic than they expected.

"The movements are still a little stiff, but very humanlike, much more fluid than I thought,"

Hutchinson said.

Honda has been developing walking robots since 1986. The latest version of ASIMO debuted last year. Honda eventually intends its robots to be companions for the elderly and others in need, such as schoolchildren navigating crosswalks. ASIMO can run, walk on uneven slopes and respond to simple voice commands. It can also recognize faces with its camera eyes.

Honda brought the robot to Detroit to highlight its recent \$1 million gift to the orchestra for a music education fund.



Honda's ASIMO robot enters the stage to conduct the Detroit Symphony Orchestra during a program in Detroit, Tuesday, May 13, 2008.

'Christine,' 'How I Met Your Mother' back on CBS

NEW YORK (AP)—CBS has given a new lease on life to Julia Louis-Dreyfus' comedy "The New Adventures of Old Christine" and, perhaps thanks to Britney Spears, the sitcom "How I Met Your Mother."

They were among four series considered on the bubble for renewal that CBS informed producers will be back next season, according to a Hollywood executive who is familiar with CBS' planning and spoke on condition of anonymity to avoid preempting a public announcement.

CBS announces its fall programming plans to reporters and advertisers on Wednesday.

The network has announced pick-ups for five returning comedies and two new ones, suggesting it is likely that it will bring laughs to a new night on the schedule in the fall. CBS has concentrated four sitcoms on its Monday night schedule for the past couple of years.

Louis-Dreyfus won an Emmy award for her role as a divorcee who was traded in for a younger wife on "Christine." Despite the acclaim, the show's ratings had not been enough to guarantee success.

"How I Met Your Mother" was boosted by two guest appearances by the troubled pop singer this spring, a role she is reprising.

CBS has also renewed the comedy "Rules of Engagement" and the drama "The Unit."



In this photo released by CBS, actors Neil Patrick Harris, left, as Barney and guest star Britney Spears as Abby appear in a scene from "How I Met Your Mother."

'American Idol' is losing viewers

NEW YORK (AP)—Contestants are disappearing as the "American Idol" finale approaches. Unfortunately for Fox, so are the viewers.

The 21.8 million people who watched last Tuesday's competition was the show's smallest Tuesday audience in more than five years. The show did better the next night, with 22.9 million, but that was the smallest Wednesday audience in three years, according to Nielsen Media Research.

They were still the most popular programs in prime-time last week. Even though it is the May ratings "sweep," no other show cracked the 20 million viewer mark, once considered routine for television's top programs.

Another one-time big event, the finale of a "Survivor" season on CBS, was seen by 13 million viewers and didn't crack Nielsen's top 10.

Americans also preferred to spend Mother's Day with their own moms, if possible. NBC's special "America's Favorite Mom," ranked No. 107 for the week with just 2.4 million viewers.

CBS was the nation's most popular network last week, av-

eraging 10.6 million viewers in prime-time (6.7 rating, 11 share), followed by ABC with 9.5 million (6.2, 11). Fox won among the 18- to 49-year-old demographic but, reflecting the "American Idol" decline, slipped to third among all viewers with an 8.9 million average (5.5, 9). NBC had 6 million viewers (4.0, 7), the CW had 2.6 million (1.7, 3), My Network TV had 1.2 million (0.8, 1) and ION Television had 410,000 (0.3, 0).

Among the Spanish-language networks, Univision led with 3.6 million viewers (1.8, 3), Telemundo had 950,000 (0.6, 1), TeleFutura had 640,000 (0.3, 1) and Azteca had 130,000 (0.1, 0).

ABC's "World News" won the evening news ratings race, averaging 8 million viewers (5.5, 12). NBC's "Nightly News" had 7.8 million viewers (5.4, 12) and the "CBS Evening News" had 5.6 million (3.9, 8).

A ratings point represents 1,128,000 households, or 1 percent of the nation's estimated 112.8 million TV homes. The share is the percentage of in-use televisions tuned to a given show.

Paparazzi snap Britney Spears as she rear-ends SUV

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Another Britney Spears fender-bender, another instant online video. Paparazzi had cameras rolling when the pop star's white Mercedes-Benz coupe rear-ended a red Ford Explorer Tuesday in Beverly Hills.

The video, posted on TMZ.com, shows Spears in the driver's seat. Wearing a ponytail and aviator shades, she covers her mouth with her hand after realizing she hit the car in front of her.

No one was injured and police were not involved. Photos and video do not reveal any visible damage to either car.

The 26-year-old's bodyguard, who was riding in the passenger seat, gave Spears' information to the female driver of the SUV, People.com and TMZ reported.

Spears was involved in a separate fender-bender on April 12. No one was injured or cited in that accident.



AP
In this Oct. 11, 2007, file photo, singer Britney Spears drives from family court in Los Angeles.

Another elimination from 'Dancing With the Stars'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Tony Award winner Marissa Jaret Winokur won't be adding a mirrorball trophy to her collection of prizes.

The actress was eliminated Tuesday from "Dancing With the Stars."

She and her professional partner, Tony Dovolani, came into the semifinal results show in last place, with 52 points out of 60.

Jason Taylor, Kristi Yamaguchi and Cristian de la Fuente will compete in the finals of the ABC dance-off on Monday.

LaBeouf: Cigs run led to Walgreens arrest

NEW YORK (AP)—Turns out it was a nicotine jones that led to Shia LaBeouf's arrest in Chicago. The 21-year-old actor, who stars opposite Harrison Ford in "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull," told the story of his infamous Walgreen's arrest during his appearance on Monday night's "Late Show."

LaBeouf told David Letterman he got "pretty wasted" before his stint in "the drunk tank" last November for refusing to leave a Walgreen's store in Chicago.

His story: He had a hankering for cigarettes—and was preoccupied by pimple on his forehead.

"So I go to Walgreen's and I go to the cosmetic aisle," LaBeouf recalled, "and I see the security guard and he's looking at me, four in the morning, pretty disheveled, pretty messed up on the special magic sauce. And I get the pimple cream, and he's looking at me, he's kinda giggling to himself, and now I'm starting to feel like, 'What? It's really not that funny, guy, you know?'"

A bashful LaBeouf went back to his hotel and realized he'd forgotten to buy the smokes. The actor says he returned to Walgreen's wearing different clothes: "I'm going, 'Well, now the guy saw me, now what am I gonna do?' So I do an outfit change."

LaBeouf said the security guard noticed and said, "Hey, nice outfit," to which he retorted: "Yeah, nice outfit to you, too."

LaBeouf said he accidentally backed into the candy aisle, but tried to play it off like he did it on purpose. "So I grabbed these gummy bears, and I'm like, 'yeah, THESE,'" he recalled.

He said he purchased the sweets—and, once again, left



AP
In this March 29, 2008 file photo, Shia LaBeouf arrives at the 21st Annual Kids' Choice Awards in Los Angeles.

without buying cigarettes. So he threw on a hooded sweatshirt and returned to the store a third time.

"I go back down, I got the hoodie on, he goes, 'Really? Really? Really?' And I'm like, 'Yeah, really!' He goes, 'Well, what are you doing here?' And I'm like, 'Well buddy, it's your worst nightmare,'" LaBeouf said.

He said at that point, another security guard put him in plastic handcuffs and took him to the ground, said LaBeouf, calling himself a "moron."

LaBeouf was charged with misdemeanor criminal trespassing; the next day, LaBeouf's

smiling mug shot splashed across Internet.

"It was a photo shoot, (the officer's) like, 'Let me take like 14 mug shots,'" LaBeouf said.

Prosecutors later dropped charges because Walgreen Co. and a security company indicated they didn't want to continue the case.

What did LaBeouf learn from the ordeal?

"Drinking and driving is one thing, but drinking and shopping ... it's just as bad," he said.

LaBeouf was separately cited in February for smoking where he shouldn't in Burbank, Calif., but a judge later dismissed the charge.

James Garner hospitalized after minor stroke

LOS ANGELES (AP)—James Garner, who was hospitalized late last week after suffering a minor stroke, is doing well and should be going home shortly, the veteran television and film star's publicist said Tuesday.

The star of such TV shows as "Maverick" and "The Rockford Files" went to the hospital after becoming ill at home Friday, said his publicist, Jennifer Allen.

"He's still in the hospital but my understanding is he is doing well and will be going home soon. When, exactly, we have not been told yet," Allen told The Associated Press.

Garner, who turned 80 last month, rose to prominence in the 1950s as the star of "Maverick," playing a wry riverboat gambler who was quicker with a quip than a gun and, unlike his Western counterparts, was fast-er still to run from trouble than



AP
In this Feb. 5, 2005 file photo, James Garner, arrives for the 11th annual Screen Actors Guild Awards in Los Angeles.

to face it. The show aired from 1957 to 1962 but Garner, who was nominated for an Emmy as Bret Maverick, left in 1960 to pursue a film career.

He has appeared in such films as "The Children's Hour," "Victor/Victoria," "The Great Escape" and was nominated for an Oscar in 1985 as the small-town pharmacist opposite Sally Field in "Murphy's Romance."

Garner returned to television full-time in the mid-1970s, playing Jim Rockford, a modern-day private detective who, like his "Maverick" character, also was not afraid to run instead of fight. He won an Emmy for the role in 1977.

Garner also reprised his Maverick role in the short-lived "Bret Maverick" series in the 1980s.

More recently, he played Katey Sagal's father in the sitcom "8 Simple Rules ... For Dating My Teenage Daughter." Garner joined the cast in 2003 after John Ritter, who played Sagal's husband, died during the show's second season.

Retail workers have the right to their own personal space

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I disagree with your reply to "Nicki in Maryland" (March 23), the retail saleswoman who is tired of being not only touched, but physically pulled about by customers.

Everyone has personal space, and this includes service industry employees. A light touch on the arm is one thing; to be pulled or regularly touched on the shoulders and hands is quite another. To suggest that Nicki tolerate such behavior to keep a customer, or find another line of work, is disappointing. Frankly, some customers are not worth keeping, or should be educated that retail workers are human beings who deserve to be respected as such.

Maybe Nicki likes her job. Why should she give it up because of the occasional behavior of the rude and insensitive? Perhaps the job works for her because of personal or school issues. Retail jobs often have the most flexible schedules.

As a former retail employee, I have many fond memories, but I also remember people from all levels of society who believe that we are somehow less than human, temporary slaves to be treated as they see fit, and subjected to all manner of poor behavior without recourse.

—BETH IN HAYWARD, CALIF.

DEAR BETH: You are entitled to disagree. However, I also suggested to "Nicki" that she review the company's policy on touching with her employer, stay out of arm's reach, and look for tasks in the store that involve less contact with customers. While some readers sympathized with her, others agreed with me. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: While I agree that Nicki's situation is one about which the supervisor should be made aware, I believe a firm, straightforward "Please don't touch me" is appropriate. I am a former food server. I contended with the problem on a daily basis. I also don't care to be touched by anyone I do not know. I feel that everyone has the right NOT to be touched. We as human beings need to respect this.

Nicki should, indeed, try to remain out of arm's reach as you suggested. That tends to work, as it makes the other person look foolish if they have to lean to grab you.

—CYNDI IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR ABBY: Retail employees have no less right to say "No" to unwanted physical contact than any other human being. Moreover, a corporate culture of respect for employees fosters a healthy work environment, which is far more important to sales than the retention of a single pushy, touchy-feely customer who does not respect employees. Happy workers, confident in the support of their supervisor, sell with smiles on their faces, rather than selling at arm's length in fear.

—CUSTOMER'S NOT ALWAYS RIGHT

DEAR ABBY: Perhaps "Nicki" isn't well aware enough of her surroundings. A conscious effort to train herself to be sensitive to who is around her or approaching her could solve her problem. Simply glancing up could give her a clue as to whether the person is coming to ask a question. As a result, there would be less reason for the impolite to reach out and touch her.

—ANDY IN LUBBOCK, TEXAS

DEAR ABBY: Being touched by customers happens to go with the turf in any meet-the-public job. If Nicki can't accept this basic fact, she should find a job in accounting.

Friendly people make more sales, receive more tips and earn more money. Face it: Friendliness involves a certain amount of physical contact, and it's human nature to reach out to people you like. That's why successful businessmen make a point of shaking hands.

—ALLEN IN GRAND ISLAND, NEB.

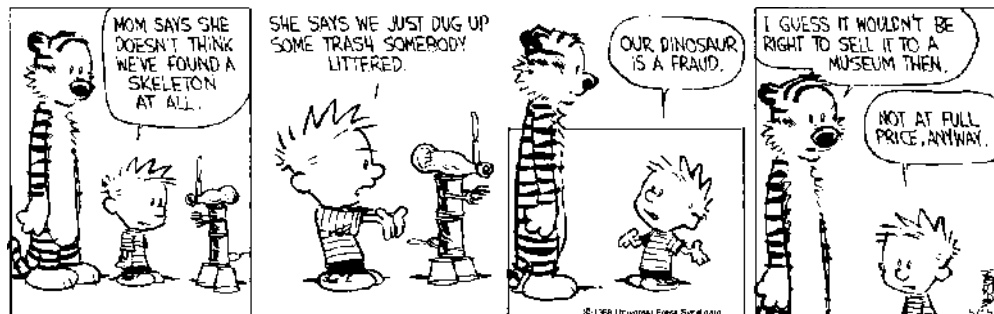
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Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



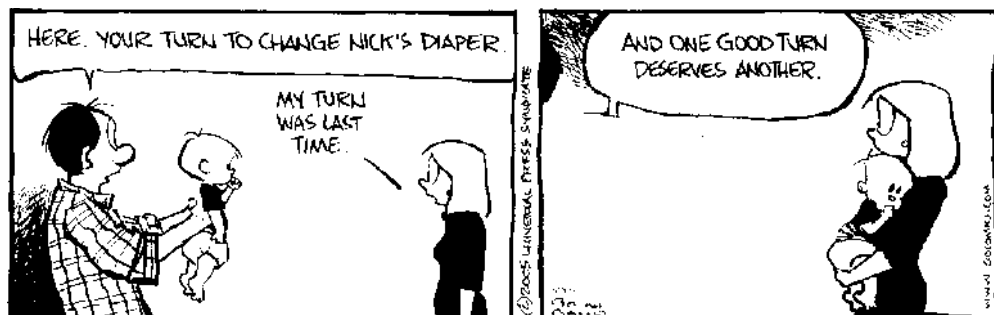
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



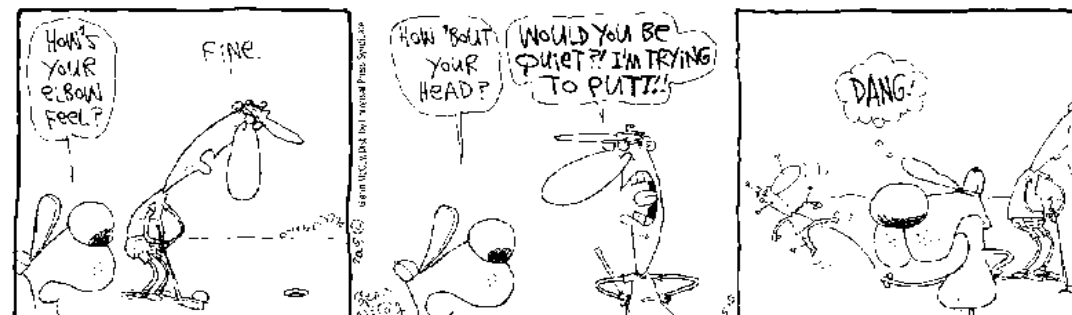
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

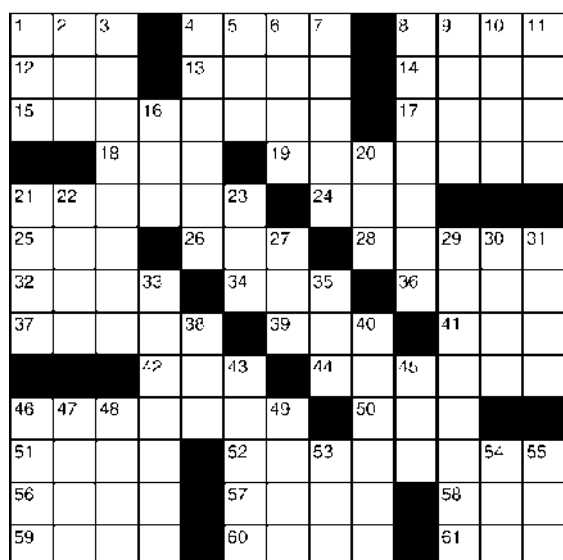
1 Predicament
4 End a relationship the hard way
8 Mulligan, e.g.
12 McKinley's first lady
13 Sandwich treat
14 Genealogy chart
15 Periodical
17 "— Lang Syne"
18 Catcher's place?
19 Vain
21 Pal
24 Tie up the phone
25 Chic no more
26 Long lunch?
28 Beat
32 Ceremony
34 Festive
36 Picnic hamper
37 Concerning

DOWN

1 Joseph Conrad's "Lore —"
2 Okla-homa city
3 Belgian surrealist
4 Egg units
5 Swiss canton
6 Options list
7 Verse
8 Dangerously obsessive
9 Verifiable
10 Congers
11 Marries
16 Sailor's assent
20 Corrode
21 — song (cheaply)
22 Destroy
23 Grooved on
27 Cudgel
29 Mississippi symbol
30 Christmas tree, often
31 Responsibility
33 Cross climax
35 "Owner of a Lonely Heart" band
38 Anderson's "High —"
40 Motionless
43 Bivouacs
45 Tin Man's need
46 "Buenos —"
47 Tittle
48 MPs' quarry
49 Staminee
53 Pistol
54 Performance
55 TV's "Science Guy" Bill

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 5-15



STUMPED?

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CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jamie-Lynn Sigler, 27; David Krumholtz, 30; Brian Eno, 60; Trini Lopez, 71

Happy Birthday: Taking too powerful a stance or action will backfire this year. The less you stir up, the further you will go and the more you will gain. It's a year of working undercover and producing what you believe to be your best route to success. Your numbers are 5, 16, 21, 33, 42, 49

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You may be drawn into someone else's problem. If you get the facts wrong, you may be blamed for meddling. Getting involved with someone for the wrong reason will result in your motives being questioned. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You may end up in the middle of a power play that can jeopardize your future. Wanting too much, too fast will be the problem. Where is your Taurus patience? Don't act before you should. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Put your heart and soul into doing something you enjoy and you will be successful. Give yourself a chance to develop and promote what it is you want to do. An emotional matter can be taken care of, leading to less stress. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Be careful what you say. An emotional issue with someone you love will get blown out of proportion, leaving you in an awkward position. You are better off giving emotional support, not cash, to someone in trouble. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Trust in your own judgment when it comes to dealing with friends, relatives or neighbors. However, with business, wait to see what everyone else does. Getting all riled up when the facts aren't clear will cost you in the end. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A little will go a long way, especially when it comes to putting your two cents worth in. You can save the day by sharing your opinion regarding a crucial business deal or a project. Your talents will lead to bigger and better things if you keep working hard. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You may be viewed as an emotional mess if you share your sentiments with others. Best to keep your thoughts under wraps until you decide on the appropriate plan of action. Avoid encounters with demanding individuals. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Someone may have a good moneymaking plan but it doesn't necessarily mean that it will work for you. A change in plans will probably cost a little more but, in the end, you will be better off for not scrimping. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): The more you talk, the more interest you will gather. You can get donations to your cause but expect someone with experience to question your plans. Act fast and you will probably be able to make a deal. ****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will have a lot on your mind and even more to get done. Don't get down, get

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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busy. You will make new friends and meet potential partners if you aren't afraid to go it alone. Love is on the rise. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Put your money where your mouth is and go after what you want instead of just talking about it. Everyone around you will be watching to see what you do and how proficient you turn out to be. Don't let them down. *****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A power play between you and a partner can turn ugly if you don't have the back-up you need. Make sure you have done your fair share before you accuse others of not pulling weight. You can get yourself in trouble if you spread rumors or you keep changing your mind. ***

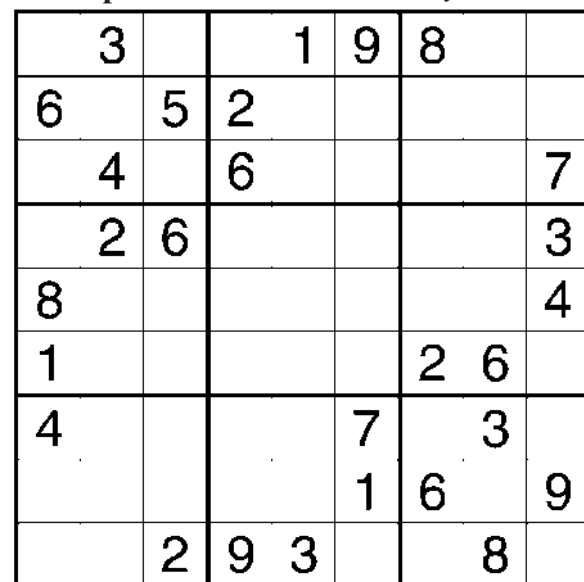
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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

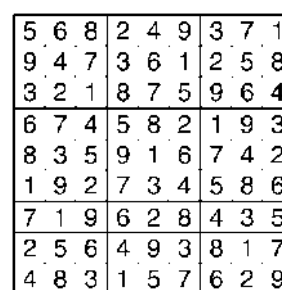


Difficulty Level ★★★

5/15

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



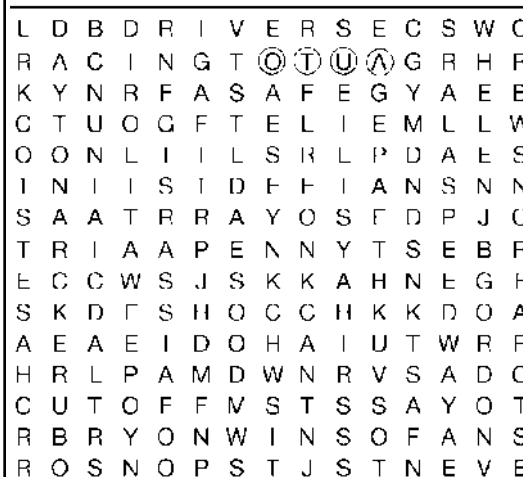
WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The letter letters spell the Wonderword.

NASCAR HEROES

Solution: 9 letters



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5/15

Afrons, Auto, Best, E file, Blarey, Bryon, Cars, Champo onship, Chase, Crew, Cutoff, Daytonia, Driver, Edwards, Events, Fans, Fast, Coroon, Jenkins, Jimmie, Johnson, Kahne, Kuris, National, Racing, Riggs, Roac, Rules, Sadler, Safe, Series, Show, Speedway, Sponsor, Spirit, Statists, Stock, Stoo, Tailgate, Talladega, Tour, Track, Vickers, Wholon, Wirs, Ye cy

Yesterday's Answer: Purify

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to revise copy when necessary.

Pistons oust Magic, reach 6th straight East finals



AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP)—The Detroit Pistons made just enough shots and stops to advance to the Eastern Conference finals for a sixth straight year.

Richard Hamilton scored 19 of his 31 points in the first half, made victory-sealing free throws late in the game and Tayshaun Prince had a key block, helping Detroit hold off the Orlando Magic for a 91-86 win Tuesday night in Game 5 of the second-round series.

"Playing in six straight is awesome, but now we expect to do this," Hamilton said. "We're supposed to be here."

The Pistons will have a break before facing the Boston Celtics or Cleveland Cavaliers in the conference finals.

Detroit made just 36 percent of its shots and allowed the Magic to make nearly half of their attempts, but made up for the disparity at the line and by taking care of the ball.

The Pistons were 28-of-32 at the line and had just three turnovers—setting an NBA playoff record for the fewest giveaways in a game—while Orlando was 16-of-28 and had a playoff-high 21 turnovers, which turned into 34 points for Detroit.

"The fact that the game is close at the end when you look at the free throw shooting and turnover disparity is remarkable," Orlando coach Stan Van Gundy said.

To the Magic's credit, they didn't go away easily against a playoff-tested team that improved to 15-3 when it has a chance to advance since 2003.

Detroit led by 10 late, but was ahead 85-84 with just under a minute left after Hedo Turkoglu made back-to-back shots.

The Pistons won when Hamilton made two key free throws, Prince blocked Turkoglu's dunk

attempt, and Hamilton made two more at the line in the last 20 seconds of the game.

Playing without All-Star point guard Chauncey Billups for the second straight game because of a strained hamstring, rookie Rodney Stuckey filled the void

Turkoglu had 18 points and nine rebounds, and Dwight Howard, Rashard Lewis and Jameer Nelson had 14 points apiece for the Magic. Nelson had guaranteed his team would extend the series with a win.

"We played them tough,"

Orlando was in the second round of the playoffs for the first time since 1996.

The Magic scored the last seven points of the first quarter to make it 20-all in what had to be a frustrating score for them.

They allowed Detroit to score all but two of its points off turnovers and offensive rebounds.

Lewis had as many missed shots (four) as turnovers in a scoreless first, but each of the other starters scored at least four points to make up for the awful start from the team's leading scorer.

When Lewis finally scored midway through the second quarter, his hook capped a 10-2 run that put Orlando ahead 33-27.

Detroit then went on a 16-3 run, and took a 47-41 lead into halftime.

The Pistons enjoyed quite an advantage at the line.

Hamilton made all 10 of his free throws before intermission and Detroit missed only one of 14 attempts while Howard was 6-of-13 to sink Orlando's total to 7-of-16 in the first half.

The Magic carried a 68-65 lead into the final period but struggled at the start of the fourth. After Lewis made two free throws in the opening seconds, Orlando went scoreless for nearly 7 minutes as the Pistons went ahead on Stuckey's steal and layup during a McDyess-led 13-0 run that put

them ahead 78-70.

The Magic still wouldn't go away until fading in the final seconds.

"It's good to get this over with," Detroit coach Flip Saunders said. "Now we get a chance to rest, especially Chauncey, and we get a chance to prepare."

Hornets 101, Spurs 79

At New Orleans, David West and the New Orleans Hornets sure looked happy to be at home. West had career playoff highs of 38 points, 14 rebounds and five blocked shots, lifting New Orleans to a 101-79 victory over the San Antonio Spurs on Tuesday night and a 3-2 series lead.

New Orleans looked impressive in winning the first two games at home but stumbled in San Antonio. Back in the Big Easy, the Hornets cruised again.

"We've proved all season long we're one of the better teams in the NBA," Hornets coach Byron Scott said. "We had every reason after Games 3 and 4 to fold, but again, being with these guys, they've showed this type of resilience all season, so I'm not surprised."

Chris Paul had 16 of his 22 points in the second half and added 14 assists for New Orleans, which has never advanced past the second round of the playoffs.

Manu Ginobili led San Antonio with 20 points and Tony Parker had 18. The Hornets held Tim Duncan to 10 points, though Duncan was a force on the glass with 23 rebounds.

"They did a great job of crowding the paint and also getting back to our shooters," Duncan said. "They were very physical on the post. I didn't shoot the ball very well and those opportunities kind of turned into them running it back at us."

Game 6 is Thursday night in San Antonio, where the Spurs are 5-0 in the postseason.



Detroit Pistons forward Tayshaun Prince (22) blocks a shot by Orlando Magic forward Hedo Turkoglu (15), of Turkey, during the closing seconds in the fourth quarter of Game 5 of an Eastern Conference basketball playoff series at the Palace of Auburn Hills, Mich., Tuesday, May 13, 2008.

with 15 points, six assists and no turnovers.

"I'm never scared," Stuckey said.

Antonio McDyess had 17 points and 10 rebounds, Rasheed Wallace had 14 points and Prince added 10.

Nelson said. "If there's anyone in their locker room who didn't think this was tough, they don't know what tough is."

Howard also had 17 rebounds and three blocks, but his night was marred by going 6-of-15 at the line.

Knicks introduce Mike D'Antoni as new head coach

NEW YORK (AP)—Mike D'Antoni is bringing his high-scoring brand of basketball to a Knicks team that seems ill-suited to run it. No matter. The former Phoenix Suns coach figures he'll come up with something that works.

"I will adapt what I do. Now I like to play fast, move the ball and all that stuff, and we'll try to do that as best as we can," D'Antoni said Tuesday. "Obviously you're going to be a little slower than (the Suns), but at the same time there's no reason why you can't run, be exciting and have good ball movement."

The Knicks are counting on it, hoping one of the NBA's top offensive coaches can turn around a team with seven straight losing seasons—and make New York an exciting future destination for free agents who want to play his entertaining style.

D'Antoni was introduced as the Knicks' 24th coach during

a news conference at Madison Square Garden, four days after agreeing to leave the Suns for a \$24 million, four-year contract. Knicks president Donnie Walsh referred to his new coach as Mike "D'Antonio," before quickly correcting himself. Still, Walsh is certain he has the right man.

"I thought that Mike was the best guy to choose because I think he's been in situations like we have right now and he did a good job with those situations," Walsh said.

D'Antoni believes he can win right away, even though the mismatched group of players he inherits makes that difficult to imagine.

"I look at the roster and that's the roster I'm going to win with," D'Antoni said. "My focus is to win this coming year."

D'Antoni replaces Isiah Thomas, who was fired last month after going 56-108 in two

seasons. New York was 23-59 last season, matching the franchise record for losses.

D'Antoni won at least 54 games each of the last four seasons and earned coach of the year honors in 2005. He is known as one of the NBA's top offensive minds, running a system that helped Steve Nash win two MVP awards and making the Suns one of the league's most exciting teams.

"Mike is a proven winner in this league with a long impressive coaching resume in the NBA and abroad," Walsh said. "While Mike's style in Phoenix was extremely successful with a running offensive team, he can adjust his style to the personnel."

The 57-year-old D'Antoni went 253-136 in Phoenix, but the Suns let him talk to other clubs about their jobs after losing to San Antonio in the first round. He chose the Knicks over the Chicago Bulls, citing

his comfort with Walsh and his desire to live in New York.

D'Antoni's career record is 267-172 in parts of six seasons with Phoenix and Denver. He also coached Benetton Treviso to the 2002 Italian League championship.

After firing Thomas, Walsh took his time with his search, interviewing TV analyst Mark Jackson, coaches Rick Carlisle and Avery Johnson, and Knicks assistant Herb Williams before settling on D'Antoni.

Despite his impressive record, D'Antoni's hiring has drawn criticism because his teams in Phoenix were never strong defensively - a critique that both amuses and annoys him.

"I know one thing for sure," D'Antoni said. "We averaged 58 wins in four years, so 58 times a year we were the best defensive team on the floor, I do know that."

NBA BRIEFS

Kobe's back much better, says he'll play in Game 5

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kobe Bryant walked a bit gingerly as he emerged from the training area at Lakers headquarters to speak with reporters Tuesday, remaining on his feet since sitting is not a preferred option because of his sore lower back. "Quite a bit (of pain), but it's a lot better than it was yesterday," Bryant said with a smile—his mood clearly positive. "It'll be fine." Bryant tweaked his back in the opening minutes of Sunday's 123-115 overtime loss at Utah that tied the Western Conference semifinals 2-2. Sore back and all, he had 33 points eight rebounds and 10 assists while playing 46 minutes. Bryant said he'll definitely play Wednesday night in Game 5 at Staples Center, adding he would have given it a go had there been a game Tuesday night. "I think the key is to know what you can and can't do," he said. "I kind of know what I can and can't do. I hope I can do what's necessary to help us win." Bryant didn't practice Tuesday, spending his time in suburban El Segundo getting treatment and watching film. He said he hoped to participate in the shootaround Wednesday morning.

Horford, Durant lead NBA's All-Rookie Team

NEW YORK (AP)—Al Horford and Rookie of the Year Kevin Durant headlined the NBA's All-Rookie team announced Tuesday. Atlanta's Horford was the only unanimous choice with 58 votes of the media, followed by Seattle's Durant with 57 in balloting by the league's head coaches. Houston's Luis Scola (53), Los Angeles Clippers forward Al Thornton (48) and Seattle's Jeff Green (43) also made the first team. Horford ranked first among rookies in rebounds (9.7), helping the Hawks end the league's longest postseason drought with their first playoff berth since 1999. Durant led the SuperSonics with 20.3 points per game, 7.6 more than any other rookie. He was the only first-year player to lead his team in five categories—points, blocks, steals, free throws made and free throw percentage. Durant blocked more shots than any other guard in the league (75). The All-Rookie second team was Toronto's Jamarion Moon, Memphis' Juan Carlos Navarro, Philadelphia's Thaddeus Young, Detroit's Rodney Stuckey and Houston's Carl Landry.

Byrd, relievers pitch Indians' 4th shutout in 7 games



CLEVELAND (AP) — Paul Byrd

and two Cleveland relievers combined for the Indians' fourth shutout in seven games with a 4-0 victory over the Oakland Athletics on Tuesday.

Byrd (2-3) allowed five hits over 7 1-3 innings, striking out seven without a walk.

The right-hander extended the Indians' scoreless streak to 34 innings by their starting staff. The last run allowed by a Cleveland starter came Friday night in the fifth inning against Toronto by C.C. Sabathia—the only run yielded by an Indians starter in the last 39 innings.

Travis Hafner singled home a first-inning run off Justin Duchschere (3-2) and Ryan Garko hit a three-run homer off Andrew Brown in the eighth.

Rafael Perez retired the only Oakland batter he faced and Masahide Kobayashi worked the final 1 2-3 innings for his first save. The 33-year-old right-hander, signed as a free agent in November, had 227 saves over the last eight seasons in Japan.

Orioles 5, Red Sox 4

At Baltimore, Luke Scott homered and had three of Baltimore's 11 hits off Josh Beckett, and Baltimore received a fine pitching performance from Jeremy Guthrie in a victory over Boston.

Scott was mired in a 7-for-55 skid before going 3-for-3 against Beckett, who came in 4-0 with a 2.05 ERA in four career starts at Camden Yards. Scott's three-run homer in the third inning put Baltimore ahead 5-3, and the advantage stood up.

The Red Sox were without manager Terry Francona, who will miss the two-game series following the death of his mother-in-law. He was replaced by bench coach Brad Mills, now 5-4 when subbing for Francona.

Rays 2, Yankees 1, 11 innings

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Gabe Gross singled with no outs in the 11th inning to drive in the first run Mariano Rivera has allowed all season, giving Tampa Bay a victory over New York and sending the Rays into first place in the American League East.

Cliff Floyd began the 11th with a single and pinch-runner Jonny Gomes stole second before Gross delivered the winner up the middle on a 1-1 pitch. Rivera (0-1) had not allowed a run in 14 previous appearances.

J.P. Howell (3-0) pitched two scoreless innings for the win, the Rays' 15th in 20 games. Tampa Bay has won a club-record 11 straight at home and is a half-game ahead of Boston in the AL East after the Red Sox lost 5-4 at Baltimore. It's the first time the Rays have sat alone atop the division standings beyond the first week of a season.

Royals 3, Tigers 2

At Kansas City, Missouri,

Jose Guillen drove in a pair of runs to help Kansas City rally to beat Detroit.

With the game tied 2-2 in the eighth inning, Guillen doubled with two outs off Francisco Cruteta (0-1). Esteban German ran for Guillen. After Billy Butler walked, Mark Teahen had an infield single, but Edgar Renteria committed a throwing error on a backhanded flip to second base, allowing German to score an unearned run.

Leo Nunez (3-0), the third of four Kansas City pitchers picked up the victory. Joakim Soria worked a perfect ninth to earn his ninth save in as many opportunities.

Blue Jays 5, Twins 3

At Minneapolis, Matt Stairs homered and scored twice for struggling Blue Jay's offense in Toronto's victory over Minnesota.

Lyle Overbay and former Twin Shannon Stewart each had two hits, including RBI-doubles, for the Jays.

Carlos Gomez and Jason Kubel hit solo homers for Minnesota, but reliever Dennys Reyes was charged with his first earned run of the season after a so-so start from Kevin Slowey (0-3), and the Twins lost at home for just the second time in 13 games.

Rangers 5, Mariners 2

At Arlington, Texas, Ramon Vazquez drove in the go-ahead run with a sixth-inning sacrifice fly and the surging Texas beat Seattle.

Vazquez went deep in the 10th inning Monday night to give the Rangers a 13-12 victory over the Mariners in the opener of the three-game series. He finished with two RBIs in the second game as Texas won for the 12th time in 14 games.

Josh Rupe (2-1) allowed one hit in 1 2-3 scoreless innings and Eddie Guardado pitched the ninth for his first save since Aug. 12, 2006, for the Cincinnati Reds.

Angels 2, White Sox 0

At Anaheim, California, Jered Weaver and two relievers combined to pitch a three-hitter as the Angels beat Chicago.

A.J. Pierzynski's leadoff single in the fifth was the only hit off Weaver, who pitched seven innings. The right-hander struck out six and walked one, coming out of the game after 109 pitches. He was 1-4 with a 7.02 ERA in his previous six starts after pitching seven scoreless innings of three-hit ball in a 2-1 win over Texas on April 5.

Scot Shields (2-0) pitched one inning for the win and Francisco Rodriguez got three outs for his major league-leading 16th save.

Reds 5, Marlins 3

At Cincinnati, Edinson Volquez (6-1) pitched six effective innings and Joey Votto homered in the Cincinnati Reds' win over the Florida Marlins, but shortstop Jeff Keppinger fouled a pitch off



Cleveland Indians' Paul Byrd pitches against the Oakland Athletics in the first inning of a baseball game Tuesday, May 13, 2008, in Cleveland.

his leg in the second and X-rays revealed a broken left kneecap.

Keppinger, the Reds' leading hitter, is scheduled for an MRI exam Wednesday.

Pinch-hitter Cody Ross homered in the eighth to cut Cincinnati's lead to 5-3, and Jeremy Hermida had a leadoff walk in the ninth against Francisco Cordero. Hermida advanced to second on a wild pitch, but Cordero retired Hanley Ramirez and Jorge Cantu on groundouts and struck out Dan Uggla for his seventh save.

Padres 4, Cubs 3

At Chicago, Khalil Greene hit a three-run home run to help Shawn Estes earn his first victory since 2005 in San Diego's win over Chicago.

Estes (1-0) pitched 5 1-3 innings and the Padres' bullpen secured the win with 3 2-3 innings of hitless relief. Trevor Hoffman pitched a scoreless ninth for his seventh save, and 531st of his career.

Alfonso Soriano led off the first inning with a home run and Reed Johnson had a two-run double for the Cubs.

Cubs starter Jason Marquis (1-3) couldn't hold an early 3-0 lead, giving up back-to-back singles to Adrian Gonzalez and Scott Hairston in the

fourth inning before Greene homered to tie it.

Mets 6, Nationals 3

At New York, Ryan Church homered, doubled and drove in four runs against his former team and John Maine pitched six sharp innings to lead the New York Mets over Washington.

Maine (5-2) was mostly dominant for his second straight start, allowing just two runs—one earned—and two hits and retiring 11 of the last 12 batter he faced after giving up Ryan Zimmerman's two-run homer to left in the third.

Phillies 5, Braves 4

At Philadelphia, Jayson Werth drove in four runs, Kyle Kendrick pitched six effective innings and Philadelphia beat Atlanta.

Kendrick (3-2) shook off a shaky first inning and allowed three runs and six hits. Brad Lidge finished for his 10th save in as many chances, though he allowed his first earned run of the season.

Chipper Jones went 3-for-4 for the Braves, raising his major league-leading average to .415.

Brewers 5, Dodgers 3

At Milwaukee, Ryan Braun delivered another big hit and Eric Gagne made a bid to reclaim his

job as Milwaukee's closer.

Gagne earned his 10th save, but it wasn't easy. Gagne allowed a leadoff single to Russell Martin before getting Blake DeWitt to hit into a fielder's choice and Mark Sweeney to fly out. DeWitt advanced to second on a passed ball, and Gagne walked Andruw Jones before getting Juan Pierre to pop out to end the game.

Coming off one of the worst outings of his career last week, Los Angeles starter Brad Penny (5-4) gave up two runs in the first four innings, then got in trouble in the fifth after issuing a leadoff four-pitch walk to Brewers pitcher Carlos Villanueva (2-4).

Pirates 8, Cardinals 4, 10 innings

At St. Louis, Ronny Paulino drove in the go-ahead run in a four-run 10th inning to lead Pittsburgh over St. Louis for its seventh win in eight games.

Adam LaRoche added a three-run double off Ron Villone (1-1) in the 10th for the Pirates, who are one game below .500. Nate McLouth hit a two-run homer and Paulino, who entered in the second after catcher Ryan Doumit hurt his left thumb muffing a pitch on a passed ball in the first, hit a tying double in the seventh.

Troy Glaus hit a three-run homer and Albert Pujols tied it in the eighth for the Cardinals. Pujols, who had a day off Monday, also walked twice and has

reached base in all 40 games.

Giants 4, Astros 2

At San Francisco, Matt Cain hit a solo home run and earned his first victory in three starts, and San Francisco snapped Houston's four-game winning streak.

It was the fourth career homer and second this season for Cain (2-3), whose drive to left leading off the fifth put the Giants up 4-1. He also connected on April 12 against St. Louis.

Omar Vizquel and Randy Winn hit back-to-back RBI doubles in the first as the Giants jumped to an early lead on the way to handing Houston its second loss in 11 games.

Carlos Lee hit his eighth home run in the eighth inning for Houston.

Diamondbacks 8, Rockies 4

At Phoenix, Randy Johnson went five shaky innings for his 287th career victory, backed by Stephen Drew's three-run homer in Arizona's win over Colorado.

The Big Unit (3-1) gave up four runs and nine hits, striking out four and walking none.

Chris Young had three hits as the Diamondbacks hammered Colorado starter Jeff Francis (0-4), a 17-game winner for the National League champions a year ago.

Garrett Atkins hit his seventh homer and Ryan Spillborghs doubled twice for the Rockies, who fell nine games behind the NL West leaders.

Feds unveil new indictment against Barry Bonds

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Barry Bonds was charged in a new indictment Tuesday with 15 felony counts alleging he lied to a grand jury when he denied knowingly using performance-enhancing drugs use and that he hampered the federal government's doping investigation.

The career home run leader originally was charged in November by a federal grand jury with four counts of perjury and one count of obstruction of justice, but in February U.S. District Judge Susan Illston ordered prosecutors to rewrite the indictment because multiple alleged lies were lumped into individual charges.

On Tuesday, a grand jury indicted Bonds on 14 counts of giving false declarations to a grand jury in 2003 and one count of obstruction of justice. No new lies were alleged in the new indictment.

"It's exactly the same," Golden Gate University law professor Peter Keane said. "It's two ways of saying it's lying and there's really no substantial difference between what he was charged with then and what he is charged with now."

The case against Bonds remains built on whether he lied when he told the grand jury that his personal trainer, Greg Anderson, never supplied him with steroids and human growth hormone.

"Barry Bonds is innocent," the player's lead attorney, Allen Ruby, said. Ruby said Bonds would appear in court to plead not guilty to the new charges.

Bonds' next hearing already had been scheduled for June 6 before the new indictment was unsealed, but Ruby said it is unclear whether Bonds will be expected to enter a plea then.

The Major League Baseball Players Association said last week it was investigating whether to file a collusion grievance against teams for not pursuing Bonds, who became a free agent when the Giants decided they didn't want him back after 15 seasons.

The 43-year-old outfielder, a seven-time NL MVP, says he wants to play this year and his agent claims no team has made an offer for the 14-time All-Star. Bonds hit 28 homers last year to raise his total to 762, seven more than Hank Aaron's previous record.

Deadline today for King, Queen of the Diamonds

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



Teams who want to join the Saipan leg of the 2008 King and Queen of the Diamonds have until today to confirm their participation for the weekend slow-pitch softball tournament.

Games will open tomorrow for the first of a three-round tournament. The opening games will be held at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field while the final two days will be held at the Capital Hill Field near the Governor's Office.

The second round will be held on July 19 and 20 and the third and final round will be on Sept. 20 and 21. Winners of the three rounds will automatically qualify for the Saipan leg championship round in October.

The second and third place teams in each round will play in a single-elimination format in the consolation draw with the fourth and final spot in the championship round at stake. Teams need to play in two out of the three

rounds in order to qualify for the wild card playoff.

The winner of the October championship round will automatically qualify for the finals in Koror, Palau, where they would get an all-expense paid trip to represent Saipan in the Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamonds finals in November.

Teams have until 6pm to pay the \$150 entrance fee during the scheduled meeting today to be held at Gilbert C. Ada Gym conference room. Coaches or team representatives are required to attend the meeting.

Tournament coordinator Joey Dela Cruz said there are 16 teams who are interested in joining the competitions but the first 12 that will pay the \$150 entrance fee will only be accepted.

Two female players need to play on the field at the same time.

Interested teams can now get their waiver forms from Dela Cruz at the Ada Gym.

For more information about the King and Queen of the Diamonds, call Dela Cruz at 664-2503 or 287-6509.

Realtors show Express right way to play 'D'

MANILA, Philippines—Sta. Lucia Realty is an old hand in playing defense while the usually offensive-minded Air21 is just getting acclimatized to that attitude.

And the Realtors showed the Express a thing or two about how to make stops the right way by stifling Air21 no end to come out a 113-100 victory Sunday in the Smart PBA Fiesta Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Realtors, who have now two of their last three games, also notched their fifth victory in eight games, slowly showing the form that made them the top defensive team and eventual champion of the previous Smart Philippine Cup.

Sta. Lucia forced Air21 to 29 turnovers – second worst in the conference – pulled off 10 steals and swatted away nine shots.

Kelly Williams and Wesley Wilson, meanwhile, led the offense with 25 points each while Ryan Reyes rebounded from a scoreless stint in a 75-108 loss to Red Bull last

Wednesday by chipping in 15 points and dishing out a career-high 10 assists out of Sta. Lucia's 27 total.

"It's nice to come back from such a loss with a win like this," said coach Boyet Fernandez. "We were really trying to make a statement on defense because

we played badly in defense versus Red Bull."

Steven Thomas had 24 points and 10 rebounds and five Air21 locals were prevented from coming closer by three turnovers, two blocks and a missed shot over the next five minutes, enabling the Realtors to put the game away with a 110-93 cushion.

Due mainly to frustration at a 49-64 halftime deficit, the Air21 game turned from physical to rough in the last two quarters and this irked Fernandez to a certain extent since they were coming from a game in which Wilson was fined a total P65,000 and narrowly missed being suspended due to an altercation with Red Bull counterpart Adam Par-

Records show that Air21 coach Bo Perasol's efforts to instill a defensive mind-set to his team has borne fruits after the Bert Lina-owned franchise won four games in this confer-

ence and their last nine games dating back to the RP Cup when limiting opponents below 100 points.

That was not to be the case Sunday, though.

Sta. Lucia led from start to finish and even posted two 19-point spreads in the third quarter, the last at 82-63.

Air21 battled back to within 89-96 on a Doug Kramer followup, with still 8:43 to go in the game. But the Express were prevented from coming closer by three turnovers, two blocks and a missed shot over the next five minutes, enabling the Realtors to put the game away with a 110-93 cushion.

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ada. Still, he was extremely pleased with the way his boys kept their poise and stuck to the business at hand.

Nelbert Omolon wound up with 17 points, the bulk coming when he joined hands with Wilson, Williams and Reyes in steadily pulling Sta. Lucia ahead.

Wilson's short stab made it a 29-20 count late in the first quarter before Williams, Reyes and Paolo Mendoza chiefly made it a 15-point half-time difference.

For its part, Sta. Lucia improved to 5-1 this conference when holding opponents to 100 points or less in a game.

Sta. Lucia 113 – Williams 25, Wilson 25, Omolon 17, Reyes 15, Mendoza 8, Aquino 7, Yeo 6, Miranda 5, Espino 4, Coronel 1, Gonzales 0.

Air 21 100 – Thomas 24, Cruz 12, Canaleta 12, David 12, Santos 11, Arboleda 10, De Ocampo 7, Se 6, Kramer 4, Billones 2.

Quarterscores: 34-29, 64-49, 89-75, 113-100. (www.pba.com.ph)

A'S

From Page 28

Jeremy Lizama batted 2-for-4 scoring twice with two RBIs and a triple.

McDonald's 8, Suns 6
Ian Rogolifoi pitched two innings in start to help Team McDonald's pull off an 8-6 win over the Shell Marianas Suns.

Rogolifoi, despite walking eight batters, only allowed two earned runs on two hits fanning four.

Josh Villagomez went 3-for-4 with one run, while Mario Ngeskebei only went 1-for-3 but scored one run and had a two-RBI double.

Pirates 4, Dolphins 2
Frankie Norita and Frankie Camacho alternated pitching duties in the Kautz Glass Pirates' 4-2 win over the PTI Dolphins.

Norita and Camacho combined for one earned run on five hits while striking out eight batters and walking three more.

Camacho also went 2-for-3 at the plate blasting a solo inside-the-park home run in the sixth. He also scored two runs, had a double, and an RBI.

Dragons 11, Lions 9

Last Saturday, Yochi Arurang went perfect at the plate going 3-for-3 as the San Antonio Dragons escaped with an 11-9 win over the Kagman Lion Hearts.

Arurang scored twice in the game with a double, a triple, and three RBIs. Steve Cabrera and Jose Ngeskebei combined for 4-for-7 in batting with two runs.

Arden Ngeskebei pitched 2 2/3 innings to earn the win giving up two earned runs on four hits with two strikeouts and three walks.

Patriots 22, Survivors 0

Chris Mizer and Jeremy Rabauliman pitched and batted their way in the game as the three-peat seeking SaipanCell Patriots breezed to a 22-0 shutout win over the Martha's Store Survivors.

Mizer pitched 3 1/3 innings in start while Rabauliman pitched 2/3 innings in relief. They combined in holding the Survivors to 0-for-12 in batting with no hits with 10 strikeouts and three walks.

Mizer, who had nine strikeouts, went 2-for-4 with a second inning two-run home run. He also had two RBIs and a double. Rabauliman went 4-for-4 with four runs, five RBIs, a double,

and two home runs.

Rabauliman had a two-run homer in the first, an RBI double in the second, and another two-run shot, an inside-the-park home run, in the fourth.

Jun Rabauliman and Alan Agumon combined for 8-for-8 with seven runs, and two triples. Jun Rabauliman also had a double while Agumon had three RBIs.

Jose Lizama and Jared Sablan combined for 6-for-8 scoring six runs. Lizama also had a double and a triple.

Hustlers I 17, Hustlers II 7

Cody Kaipat and Jesus Celes held Hustlers II to 3-for-15 in batting in UMDA Hustlers I's 17-7 triumph.

Kaipat and Celes combined in giving up one unearned run on two hits to Hustlers II while striking out five batters and walking four more.

A.J. Lizama went 4-for-4 with four runs, a double, a triple, and an RBI. He homered, a solo shot, in the third inning. Raymond Saralu went 2-for-3 with three runs scored, a triple, and two RBIs.

Joseph Borja, Mike Cabrera, and Celes combined for 6-for-6 and four runs. Borja had two RBIs, a double, and a triple while Celes had two doubles and two

RBIs. Cabrera also had a triple.

Braves 11, Enforcers 4

Haimi Blas pitched 5 2/3 innings in start, while Nick Junior Jones went perfect at the plate to lead the AA Ent./TCC World Braves of Tanapag to an 11-4 victory over the Enforcers of Rep. Diego T. Benavente.

Blas gave up four earned runs with six strikeouts and three walks, while Frankie Lieto, despite walking two batters, pitched 1/3 shutout innings in relief.

Jones went 3-for-3 and scored a run with an RBI while Lieto went 2-for-4 with one run and RBI. R.J. Renguul, who walked three times, only went 1-for-1 but scored two runs and had an RBI-triple.

SENIOR LEAGUE Dolphins 5, D9ers 2

In Tuesday's Senior League game, Anthony Rogolifoi and Ofero Taitano pitched the PTI Dolphins to a 5-2 win against the Plus Marketing/Pacific Bio Medical Services D9ers.

Rogolifoi earned the win pitching two innings in relief where he gave up one unearned run on one hit striking out three batters and walking two more.

Taitano started for the Dolphins allowing one earned run on seven hits and one walk.

title match with an 82-79 win in Game 1 but OPA bounced back with a 76-63 victory to force a rubber.

OPA then did not let the opportunity slip away from their hands and scored a 99-82 rout of NMC Proa in Game 3 to wrap up the series.

For more information about the government basketball league, call Dela Cruz at 664-2503 or 287-6509.

and Saipan Mayor's Office.

The tournament will follow a single round-robin format with the Top 8 teams advancing to the double-elimination round playoffs. Games will be played every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday with the first and second games scheduled at 6:30pm and 8pm.

Last year, OPA defeated NMC-Proa, 2-1, in their three-game series.


Proa opened the race-to-two

BUSINESSES

From Page 28

its continuing commitment to the people of the CNMI.

Thirteen teams have already showed interest in joining the 2008 season of the Inter-Government Basketball League, which opens on May 19, Monday, 6pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	23	16	.590	—
Boston	24	18	.571	1/2
Baltimore	2019	.513	3	
New York	19	21	.475	4 1/2
Toronto	19	22	.463	5

Central Division

Minnesota	20	18	.526	—
Cleveland	20	19	.513	1/2
Chicago	18	20	.474	2
Kansas City	17	21	.447	3
Detroit	16	23	.410	4 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	24	17	.585	—
Oakland	23	17	.575	1/2
Texas	20	21	.488	4
Seattle	15	26	.366	9

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Florida	23	16	.590	—
Philadelphia	22	18	.550	1 1/2
New York	20	17	.541	2
Atlanta	19	19	.500	3 1/2
Washington	16	24	.400	7 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	23	16	.590	—
St. Louis	23	18	.561	1
Houston	22	18	.550	1 1/2
Milwaukee	20	19	.513	3
Pittsburgh	19	20	.487	4
Cincinnati	17	23	.425	6 1/2

West Division

Arizona	24	15	.615	—
Los Angeles	19	19	.500	4 1/2
San Francisco	17	23	.425	7 1/2
Colorado	15	24	.385	9
San Diego	15	25	.375	9 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Philadelphia 5, Atlanta 4
N.Y. Mets 6, Washington 3
Cincinnati 5, Florida 3
San Diego 4, Chicago Cubs 3
Milwaukee 5, L.A. Dodgers 3
Pittsburgh 8, St. Louis 4, 10 innings
Arizona 8, Colorado 4
San Francisco 4, Houston 2
Cleveland 4, Oakland 0

Baltimore 5, Boston 4

Tampa Bay 2, N.Y. Yankees 1, 11 innings

Texas 5, Seattle 2

Toronto 5, Minnesota 3

Kansas City 3, Detroit 2

L.A. Angels 2, Chicago White Sox 0

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

Little League Standings

Majors

Patriots	14	1
Hustlers I	12	1
Ol'Aces	11	3
Red Sox	10	3
Braves	10	4
Survivors	9	4
Dragons	8	5
Twins	6	7
Pirates	6	8
Dolphins	5	7
Little Lions	4	10
Athletics A's	4	10
McDonald's	3	10
Hustlers II	2	12
Suns	1	12
Dare JPO's	1	13

Senior League

Dolphins	9	3
Jets	8	3
Fielders	8	3
D9ers	3	7
Liong Hearts	1	11

NMIVA Standings

	W	L	PF	PA	SW
Fatingali	7	0	128	147	18
Kiss My Pass	5	1	181	124	14
15 Of Fame	5	2	205	140	15
MHS Peers	5	2	185	153	13
Angan	4	2	159	160	10
Spike/A'Sauras	4	3	156	167	9
Herbalizers	3	3	169	151	10
Tsunami	3	3	137	150	9
670 Boom Boom	2	4	102	155	8
Snap Crackle Pop	2	4	158	157	7
MHS Okies	2	5	166	184	7
Gigi	2	5	120	117	4
Spiked Punch	2	5	161	184	9
MHS Young Gunz	2	5	175	194	8
Brabu	2	6	170	221	9

PF-Points scored by team

PA-Points scored against team

SW-Sets won

More than 50 take part in SAIWAI event



More than 50 participants took part in the 9th Annual SOPHIA Walk and World Walking Day event last Sunday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

By **MARK RABAGO**
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



More than 50 walking enthusiasts took part in last Sunday's 9th Annual SOPHIA Walk and World Walking Day held along the scenic Saipan Beach

Pathway.

The occasion coincided with the islands' Mother's Day celebration and Saipan Walking Association, Inc. treated the celebrants with a specially made cake and cookies from Herman's Modern Bakery.

The SOPHIA Walk and World Walking Day event also saw 16 members of the Nippon Turtle Club participate led by 86-year-old Jo Izuma and her son Junichiro Izumi.

The elder Izuma, who has made the visit to Saipan and SOPHIA Walk participation a yearly pilgrimage, said she was again happy to be back.

"Again, this year, we are able to visit Saipan and participate in the SOPHIA Walk. Warm hospitality and bright red flame trees welcomed us. We are excited to join the walk by wearing the same T-shirts. We really enjoyed the opportunity to walk 5-kilometer course with the members and had a great time conversing with them," she said.

SAIWAI said this early the group already expressed their intention to come back for the 10th Annual SOPHIA Walk and World Walking Day next year.

Participants last Sunday walked southward to the Oleai bus stop and back for the 10-kilometer route, while five-kilometer participants only walked to the World War II Japanese Tank and back.

Named after former first lady Sophia Tenorio, SOPHIA stands for Saipan Outdoor Physical Health Invigorating Adventure, while World Walking Day was initiated by the International Federation of Popular Sports and is celebrated in the month of May by IVV member countries and direct member clubs around the world.

Last year, the World Walking Day Walk attracted 102 participants, 20 of which were members of the Nippon Turtle Association.

Like all SAIWAI activities, IVV members received credit for joining the 9th Annual SOPHIA Walk and World Walking Day. The IVV has member walking clubs in the U.S., Canada, Brazil, Japan, South Korea, Turkey, Nepal, Australia, New Zealand, the CNMI, and 29 other European countries, including Germany.

For more information about SAIWAI and its future events, contact Mario at 322-8876, Hiroko at 322-8781, or Bea at 285-1694.



Nippon Turtle Club's Jo Izumi, the event's oldest participant, receives a gift from MVA managing director Perry Tenorio as other participants of the 9th Annual SOPHIA Walk and World Walking Day event look on.



MVA managing director Perry Tenorio, right, poses with other VIPs of the 9th Annual SOPHIA Walk and World Walking Day event.



Nippon Turtle Club's Jo Izumi slices the cake especially made for the 9th Annual SOPHIA Walk and World Walking Day event.



Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio with 5-year-old Haruna Tanaka pose for a photo after completing the last Sunday's 9th Annual SOPHIA Walk and World Walking Day event. Tanaka is the grandchild of Nippon Turtle Club's Jo Izumi, who at 86 years old is a staple of the event.



Members of the Nippon Turtle Club walk along the Saipan Beach Pathway during last Sunday's 9th Annual SOPHIA Walk and World Walking Day event.



Some of the youngest participants of the 9th Annual SOPHIA Walk and World Walking Day event pose for a photo. Center is SAIWAI director Hiroko Tenorio's 4-year-old son, Jun Tenorio.



The special cake and T-shirt for the 9th Annual SOPHIA Walk and World Walking Day event is shown in this photo.



More than 50 take part in SAIWAI event

More than 50 walking enthusiasts took part in last Sunday's 9th Annual SOPHIA Walk and World Walking Day held along the scenic Saipan Beach Pathway.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Pistons oust Magic, reach 6th straight East finals

The Detroit Pistons made just enough shots and stops to advance to the Eastern Conference finals for a sixth straight year. Richard Hamilton scored 19 of his 31 points in the first half.

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28 THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2008

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

A's edge Hustlers II in Majors

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

David Muna and David Ada each blasted a home run as the Tan Holdings Athletics A's scored a 16-13 win over Hustlers II in Tuesday's Majors division game in the Saipan Little League at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.

Another game was held at the San Vicente School Field but the result was not available at press time. Little League officials decided to use two fields for the Majors division in order to finish the remaining games in time for the all-star selection for the CNMI District Tournament in Rota next month.

Muna went perfect at the plate going 3-for-3 with two runs scored, and two RBIs. He belted a two-run inside-the-park home run in a five-run second inning rally.

Ada went 3-for-4 with three runs, a double, and a fourth-inning grand slam. He connected with a bases-clearing inside-the-park home run.

Jacob Tomokane also went 3-for-3 with two runs, a double, and a triple, while Fermin Ren-

gual and Roger Rengiil combined for 4-for-8 with three runs. Rengiil also had three RBIs.

The A's combined for 16-for-27 in batting for a .592 average. Rengiil, Muna, and Ada also held Hustlers II to seven earned runs on 11 hits with three strikeouts, and 11 walks.

Ol'Aces 19, A's 4

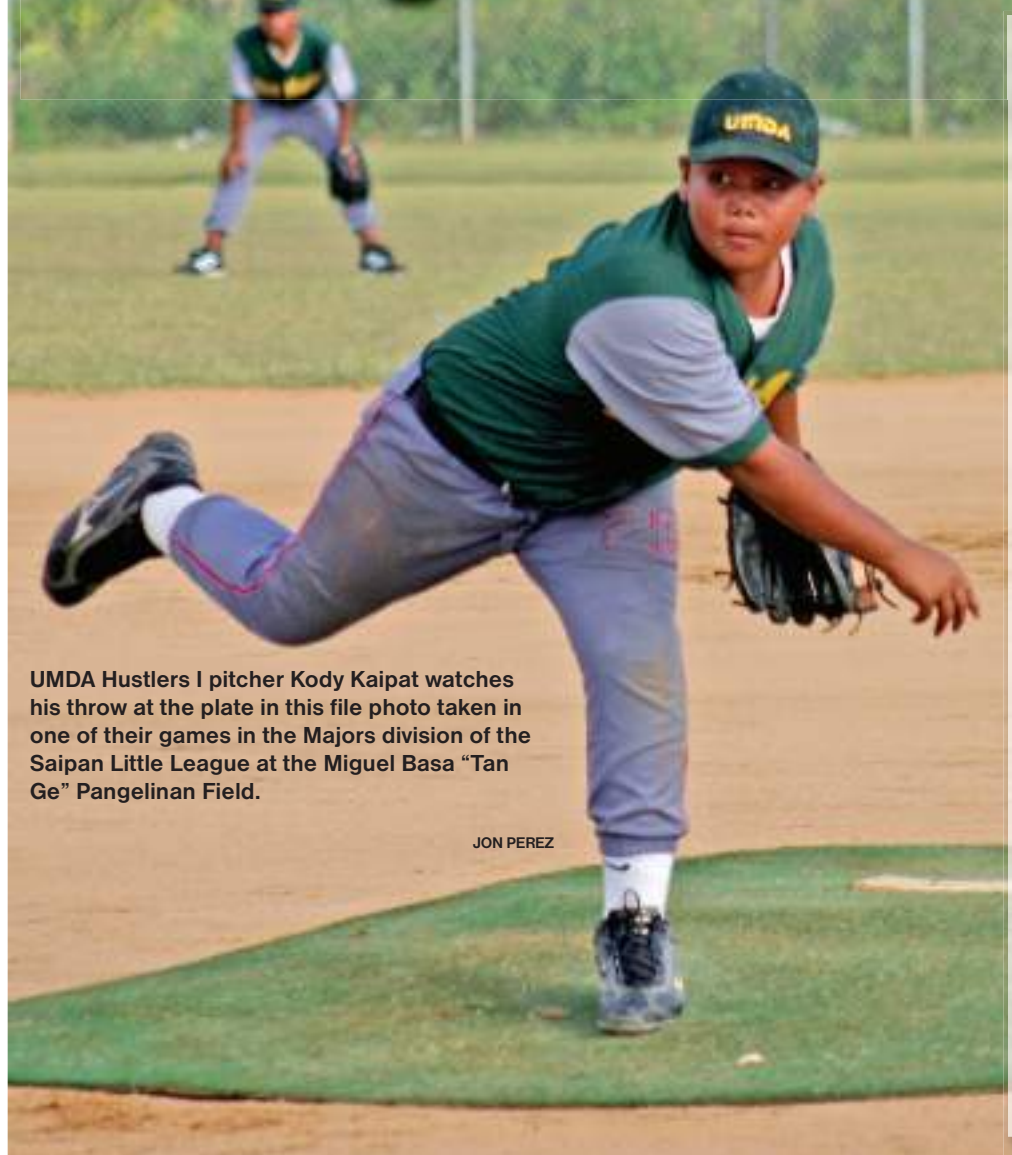
Last Sunday, T.J. Sablan pitched a complete game shortened by the 10-run mercy rule as Ol'Aces coasted to a 19-4 win over the A's.

Sablan needed 87 pitches to force the A's to one earned run on three hits fanning five while walking six. He also held the A's to 3-for-14 in batting while also going 3-for-4 at the plate scoring one run.

Zachary Yamagishi went 3-for-5 with two runs, three RBIs and a home run. He whacked an inside-the-park home run in Ol'Aces' nine-run third inning rally.

Jesse Brel went 3-for-4 with three runs, a double, four RBIs, and a home run. He had a three-run inside-the-park home run in the fourth inning. Shane Guerrero and Kindo Camacho combined for 4-for-5 with five runs.

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UMDA Hustlers I pitcher Kody Kaipat watches his throw at the plate in this file photo taken in one of their games in the Majors division of the Saipan Little League at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.

JON PEREZ

NMITF prepares members for Tinian Triathlon



JON PEREZ

Dawn Hammermeister adjusts her swim goggles after coming out of the swim leg in this file photo taken in one triathlon event on Saipan.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



The Northern Mariana Islands Triathlon Federation has lined up several events to help their members warm up in time for the 9th Turquoise Blue Triathlon & Reef Swim in Tinian next month.

The fun starts on Sunday with the return of the early morning Fun Ride. The event starts at 6am with the Micro Beach Pavilion near Hyatt Regency Saipan inside the American Memorial Park as the meeting place.

NMITF president Russ Quinn also scheduled a night ride on the same day, with the event starting at 7pm with the upper parking lot of the Palms Resort Saipan, formerly Hotel Nikko, as the meeting place.

The Sunday Night Ride is for mountain bikes only and lights are also needed for the event.

Quinn is also planning to hold a "Happy Hour" Triathlon next weekend where he would like to combine the spirit of a workout and social event.

NMITF members are also preparing to join the May 31 Hyatt Regency Saipan-Marianas Visitors Authority Mountain Bike Ride. Details of the Hyatt-MVA race will come out soon.

On June 14, local triathletes will compete against their visiting Japanese counterparts for the 9th Turquoise Blue Triathlon & Reef Swim. Teams are allowed for the Tinian Triathlon.

Other events to be held by NMITF for the year are having a sports yoga class and a bike maintenance clinic.

Businesses invited to join govt caging

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



Government basketball league coordinator

Joey Dela Cruz has renamed the league to PTI Inter-Government and Business League after he sent out an invitation to all local businesses to join them in the competition.

The league is set to open on May 19 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium where at least 13 teams will be participating from various government departments and agencies.

The entrance fee is \$500 where half of it can be paid before the start of the league, while the remaining amount must be paid on or before the teams' third game. Checks can be made payable to the Division of Sports and Recreation.

Last week, PTI became the major sponsor of the 2008 season of the annual government basketball league. Present during the signing were Dela Cruz and co-coordinator Mario Sablan. PTI marketing associate



JON PEREZ

Public School System's Walter Mendez sizes up the defense of Oscar Masga in this file photo from last year's Inter-Government Basketball League.

Brad E. Ruszala was on hand for the sponsoring company and discussed the details of PTI's sponsorship.

PTI regularly supports youth and adult teams in a vast number of sporting events as part of

See BUSINESSES on Page 26

Fatingali remains on top

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



Fatingali remained the lone undefeated team in the 9th Annual Pacific Islands Club-Miller Lite

Spring Co-ed 4-Person Beach Volleyball League at the PIC sand courts.

Fatingali scored its seventh straight win after an 11-6, 10-12, 11-9 win over Kiss My Pass Tuesday night to remain on track of sweeping the elimination round.

The loss ended Kiss My Pass' five-game winning run and its bid for a sixth consecutive win that could have put them on top of the 15-team field.

Fatingali's combination of Marino Pungilug, Jazz Roscow, Jessica Uematsu, Butch Kaipat, June Keller, and Valerie Gilramngen did wonders for the team as they have only dropped three of the 21 sets they have played so far.

In other games, MHS Peers joined idle 15 Of Fame

in third place after an 11-3, 12-10, 7-11 win over Angan while MHS Young Guns got out of the cellar with an 11-4, 5-11, 11-9 decision against 670 Boom Boom.

The win was the second in seven games for the Young Guns to leave Brabu all alone at the cellar with a 2-6 record.

Spiked Punch also improved to a 2-5 card after a masterful 11-5, 11-5, 11-0 win over Gigi.

MHS Young Guns, 670 Boom Boom, Kiss My Pass, and Angan were playing against Spiked Punch, Gigi, Snap Crackle Pop, and Spike'A'Sauras at press time.

Games today will have the Young Guns, Snap Crackle Pop, and 670 Boom Boom battle the Herbalizers, Brabu, and Tsunami, while Fatingali guns for their eighth straight win when they clash with Angan.

The first game begins at 5:30pm with the final match to be played at 8:30pm. Games are held every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.